



BADGER



LEGIONNAIRE

& WISCONSIN VOL 99 #6 | DEC. 2022

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY | WILEGION.ORG

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

2023

MIDWINTER CONFERENCE JANUARY 12-15

Radisson Hotel
& Conference Center
2040 Airport Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313

The 2023 Midwinter Conference will be held January 12-15 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Green Bay.

There will be eight NEW Class offerings:

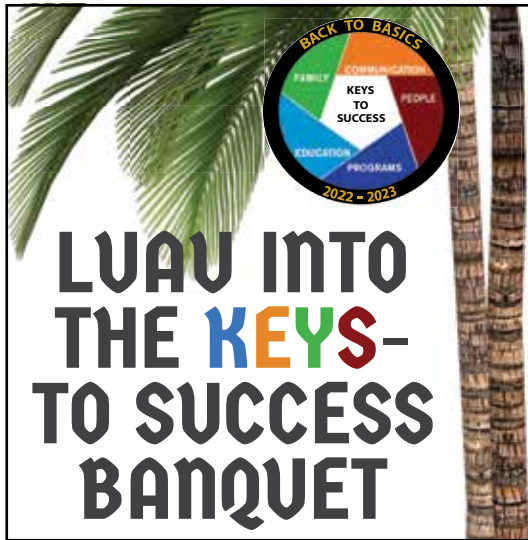
- Motivational Leadership/Membership Engagement
- Interactive Suicide Prevention
- Be The One by National Staff Member Henry Howard
- County Commander Course
- Generational Leadership Issues
- Public Relations Toolkit- How To
- Wisconsin Gaming Commission
- Mylegion.org/Recruiting and Retention

Plus, some of your favorite classes are back by popular demand. See Page 11 for the full schedule.

Also, NEW for 2023: You call the hotel directly for reservations (except for Call-In List). You can reach Radisson



Daddy D Productions will perform at the Luau.



Hotel & Conference Center (2040 Airport Drive Green Bay, WI 54313) by calling 920-494-7300 and reserving under the American Legion's block name: Midwinter Conference 2023. Rooms in the block cost \$109 plus 15.5% tax per night.

Alternate Housing information: Wingate, 2065 Airport Dr., Green Bay, WI 54313. They can be reached at 920-617-2000. There, the rooms are under the block name Midwinter Conference 2023. Rooms are \$109 plus 15% tax per night.

Note: These are all King rooms.

REGISTRATION FORM

Pre-register for The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin 2023 Midwinter Conference by returning this registration form and \$20.00 per person (1 person per registration form) to Department Headquarters by January 2, 2023 and **save \$5!** Registrations received after January 2, 2023 will be \$25 per person. Or register online at wilegion.org.

(Please type or print clearly in order for your badge to be printed correctly)

NAME _____

MEMBER ID# _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

DISTRICT ____ POST ____ UNIT ____ SQUADRON ____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

ITEM	Number	Price	Total
Registration Fee	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20	_____
Reg. Fee After 1/2/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25	_____
LUAU INTO THE KEYS — TO SUCCESS	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$40 (RSVP By January 2, 2023)	_____

Wear your best Hawaiian Shirt and enjoy a Family Style Dinner with Entertainment by Daddy D Productions and Talent Show, the best Individual, Team or District will win \$50! ALL ARE WELCOME!

Total Enclosed _____

**Make check payable to The American Legion,
or Enter Credit Card Information Below**

Cash Check # _____

Or

Credit Card

Name on Card _____

Card Type _____

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ Sec. Code _____

Return to:

The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin Attn: Midwinter
P.O. Box 388, Portage, WI 53901
or email to angela@wilegion.org

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

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

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

“Wisconsin”

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

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

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

BADGER BOYS STATE

KNOW HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH BADGER BOYS STATE

Now is the time to be thinking about supporting The American Legion program, Badger Boys State. Our 80th session convenes June 11-17, 2023 at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire campus. Now is the time to consider supporting this leadership development program. We are planning for next June and need you to consider sponsorships for this youth event.

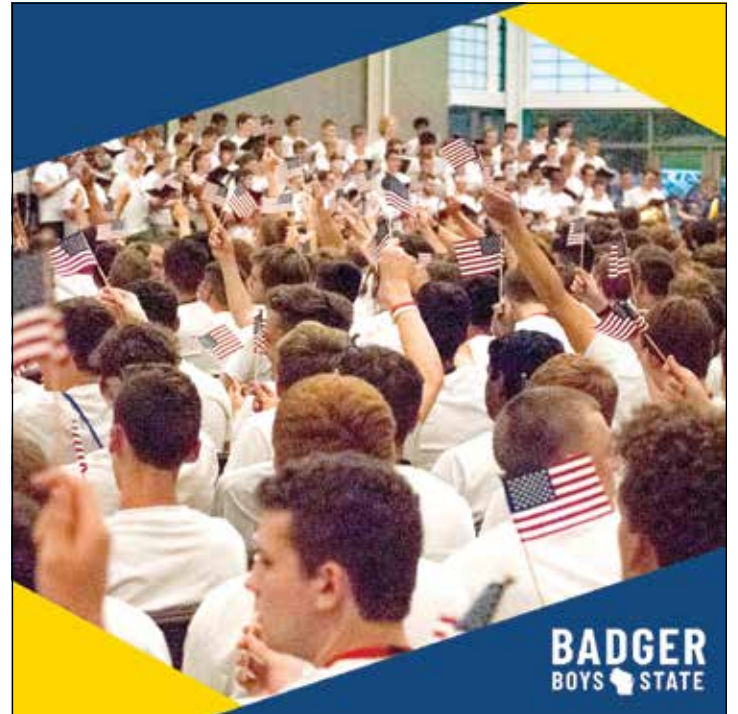


Questions you might have about sponsoring Boys to attend Badger Boys State:

WHAT IS BOYS STATE? Badger Boys State is a citizenship and leadership program for high school junior boys who are going to be seniors in the fall of the school year. During the week the young men learn about our system of democratic government. The program is owned by The Wisconsin American Legion and reflects the mission of The American Legion.

HOW IS THE PROGRAM FINANCED? The \$400 sponsorship fee pays for the young man’s week at the program. American Legion posts from Wisconsin along with individuals and community groups support the effort and their sponsorships pay the bills. For 80 years the Wisconsin American Legion and its posts have been very generous in sponsoring the program. The thousands of boys who have gained knowledge and experience from Boys State are most appreciative of these gifts. The 120-person staff that works during the Boys State week and throughout the year is completely volunteer. They efficiently use the resources available. The Legion provides an office staff person whose job duties include Badger Boys State and the cost for that time is reimbursed to the Legion from Boys State.

WHAT IS NEEDED? Financial contributions of any amount are welcomed. Every Legion Post in Wisconsin is encouraged to support this effort by sponsoring at least one boy. A youth from your community, chosen by the local High School, would benefit from this program. There are excellent youth from all over the state who do not have a sponsor and would welcome your participation as well so that they can



attend the program.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED? Communicate with Legion Headquarters with your willingness to sponsor a boy or contribute financially to the program. For answers to your questions please email the Boys State Director Bill Cosh at

BillCosh@hotmail.com.

The American Legion posts and legionnaires in Wisconsin are extremely important to the future of Badger Boys State. We are together building leaders for our state and nation. It is time to consider a sponsorship to Badger Boys State 2023.



A&G TEST GOES LIVE IN MARCH

The 2023 Americanism and Government test is live from March 6 through March 17, 2023. Students register online when taking the test. Students in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades are eligible to take the test. They can take it any time, 24/7, during the testing period. Students can only take the test once per year. Grade 10 – 11 students will receive a \$250 scholarship. Grade 11 – 11 students will receive a \$300 scholarship. Grade 12 – 11 students will receive a \$750 scholarship.

Please share this information with your local high schools. This is a fun and easy way for students to compete for some scholarship funds. Visit wilegion.org/oratorical-scholarships for more information.

JUSTICE HERNANDEZ VISITS POST 454



Abler/Engel Legion Post 454 Mt. Calvary, WI recently heard from St. Lawrence Seminary students Angel Hernandez and Christopher Lor. Angel was elected to the position of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court by the 850 participants. Both were sponsored by Post 454 at this year’s Badger Boys State. The program was held in June.

Pictured left to right: Post 454 Commander Dave Lefeber, Christopher Lor and Angel Hernandez.



Legionnaire Gary Gilbertson, Vernon County Student Government Day Chairman, addresses students during his 50th year.



90 students from De Soto, La Farge and Brookwood high schools enjoy pizza for lunch at the VFW in Viroqua.

VERNON COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION HOSTS 56TH YOUTH GOVERNMENT DAY

For the 56th year, the Vernon County American Legion hosted Youth Government Day in Viroqua, Wednesday, November 9. Students from La Farge, Brookwood and De Soto high schools started their day observing circuit court proceedings with Judge Darcy Rood on

the bench. Following the court proceedings, the students gathered for lunch and a program. Speakers at the program were Vernon County Sheriff John Spears, District Attorney Tim Gaskell and Rood. Spears, who's retiring after 40 years in Vernon County as a member of law en-

forcement, including the past 12 as sheriff, gave a history of the office of sheriff, going as far back to England to the years when the American West was being settled and sheriffs were hired in rural areas.

Another county official to speak was Rood, who said she has a very large

docket, but it's fascinating. "Be grateful for the rights in the Constitution," she said "The Veterans (here) fought for these rights."

Other speakers included Roger Mathison, Baseball Commissioner, and Jerry Lauby, Americanism Committee Chair.

COUNTY YOUTH GOVERNMENT DAY SEES 14 SUPERVISORS TAKE OATH IN COLUMBIA COUNTY

On Wednesday, October 26, the students participated in "County Youth Government Day", a program that is sponsored by the Columbia County American Legion. The program provides the students with hands-on experiences of county government.

The day begins with actual members of the County Board, describing their jobs and responsibilities as county board supervisors. The day continues with the County Board Supervisors conducting a tour of all county offices, where a spokesperson from the office explains the purpose and the duties of the

office. The students then proceed to the Columbia County Courthouse for the afternoon. There, the students observe court proceedings. Upon conclusion of the proceedings, the presiding judge, district attorney, and defense attorney explain what happened, followed by questions from students and observers.

AT RIGHT: The Honorable Judge, Andrew Voigt, administers the oath of office to 14 Columbia County high school students, who temporarily act as County Board supervisors.



AT LEFT: Randy Schoolcraft shows visitors a display photo. ABOVE LEFT: Schoolcraft's WWI display. ABOVE RIGHT: The 100-year flag.

BLACK RIVER FALLS AMERICAN LEGION MILES-HAGEN POST 200'S 100-YEAR CELEBRATION

The day dawned brightly, full of anticipation for the event that was 100 years in the making. Later that day, Post 200 would host a celebration of its 100th anniversary.

With displays spanning the decades from WWI to the present,

visitors were welcomed with a cup of coffee and a piece of cake. Also on display were historical membership records and pictures of past members and commanders, amongst other interesting items. The Post's next-door neighbor, the 1158th Transportation

Company, Wisconsin National Guard, was on hand with a few of their members to show off their equipment and capabilities. After a throng of appreciative visitors, post members picked up, cleaned up, and headed home looking forward to the next 100 years.

Harry P. Bauer for Department Commander

Past Department Vice Commander Harry P. Bauer, respectfully requests your support in announcement of his candidacy for the high office of Department Commander 2023-2024. He has the support from his Post, Chippewa County Counsel and the Mighty Tenth District. Harry has the support of his wife, Patsy, son Robert, daughter Patricia and two grandkids Brendan and Jax.

An American Legion annual member for 10 Continuous years and a member of Post 77. Harry served as a Post Commander, County Vice Commander and Membership Chairman, County Commander, District 1st Vice Commander and Membership Chairman and a District Commander. Currently serves as the Chippewa County Adjutant/Finance Officer. Served on the Department Membership Committee and as DEC Liaison on the Department Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee. Currently serves as the Vice Chairman on the Department Hospital Committee and involved with the Oratorical Contest. He is a graduate of the Wisconsin American Legion College (WALC), a Lifetime member WALC Alumni Association and current President. He is one of the leading WALC Instructors and acts as a mentor to many individuals within the Legion Family. Harry is the Chairman of the Chippewa Veterans Home Recreation Committee, Inc. Also established a successful relationship with the Veterans Housing and Recovery Program. Harry is an active member of the Chippewa Falls Patriotic Council



Harry P. Bauer
Past Department
Vice Commander

for 10 years and currently serves as the Honor Guard Commander.

He is a Veteran of the U.S. Air Force, 1976-2013 Retired as a Master Sergeant. Harry was an Aircraft Armament Systems Technician and was responsible for the training and evaluations of Munitions Load Crews. He was an Occupational Safety and Health Program Manager for the 917 Wing and 307th Bomb Wing, a Risk Management Advisor and an Authorized OSHA Outreach Trainer for General Industry through Eastern Kentucky University. Also earned Associate Degrees in Business Administration, Aircraft Armament Systems Technology and Safety.

"It's not about me, it's about we", the American Legion Family.

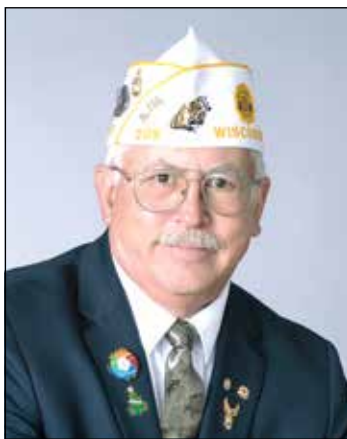
Karl Stuvengen for Department Commander

Department Vice Commander Karl Stuvengen announces his candidacy for the high office of Department Commander. He is a 32-year PUFL member of Wells – Davis – Young – Neal Post 209, Orfordville.

He retired from the United States Navy, as a Command Senior Chief Petty Officer (E-8). His assignments included service in the Western Pacific, Iraq and Kuwait.

Karl has served The American Legion at all levels. He is currently a Department Vice Commander and Rock County Adjutant. He has served as Chair of several Department committees; He also serves as the National Commander's representative on the National Constitution and Bylaws Committee. He is a member of the Sons of The American Legion, 40 at 8, ANAVICUS, DAV, VFW and FRA. He is a graduate of the Wisconsin and National American Legion colleges.

Karl's theme is "Recruit the Next You". But this is more than just a slogan. It encompasses his vision for the future of our organization. He believes that each of us must find that member, engage, mentor, and show them the value of an American Legion membership. By teaching them about the organization, and what we do, they will be better able to assist in and eventually assume the roles and responsibilities



Karl Stuvengen
Department Vice Commander

that we now bear. He will continue the initiatives begun this year in the areas of communications, education, and a re-emphasis on our programs as a way to build value in membership. He believes this will not only attract new members, but re-engage our current members leading to a revitalization of both our programs and our Posts.

Karl is endorsed by his Post, County and the 1st District. He is a retired Director of Public Works. He has the support of his wife, Debi, and their 7 children and 4 grandchildren, all members of The American Legion Family.

Larry Larson for Department Vice Commander

Tenth District Commander Larry Larson humbly requests your support for his candidacy for Department Vice Commander.

Larry has earned his eligibility through his service in the U.S. Army. Larry has been a continuous PUFL member for 26 years. After retirement, Larry drove tractor-trailer for 3 years and then began his career with the U.S. Postal Service. Larry worked his way up to becoming a Carrier Supervisor in Cottage Grove, MN. After 22 years with the Postal Service, Larry retired again. In 2014, Larry was elected as 2nd Vice Commander of Fletch-

er-Pechacek Post 121 of River Falls, WI. The year 2016 Larry was elected as Commander of Post 121 and held that position for 3 years. Also, in 2018 Larry was elected as 2nd Vice Commander of Tenth District. In 2020 he was elected as Tenth District Commander.

Larry has been married to Margaret for 44 glorious years and they have 4 children and 1 grandchild. Margaret is currently serving as Unit 121 President and Tenth District President. Larry would like to invite you to his hospitality room at Midwinter conference in Green Bay, WI.



Larry Larson
10th District Commander

Gail Minks for Department Vice Commander

I am Gail Minks, presently 6th District Commander. I am announcing my candidacy for one of the four Vice Commander positions at the 2023 Department Convention.

Eligibility for the American Legion is from 4 years active duty U.S. Air Force 1961-1965.

41-year member of Post 33 Neenah, 18 years as a paid up for Life Member.

4 Years as Post Commander-2012-2016; also Commander 1984 and 1985 for a total of 6 years combined 100% Post Commander 2013.

1st Vice Commander Post 33 on two different occasions; the second one for ten years prior to being elected Commander for the second time.

Duties of the 1st Vice Commander include Membership Chairman.

Was Service Officer for two years for Post 33.

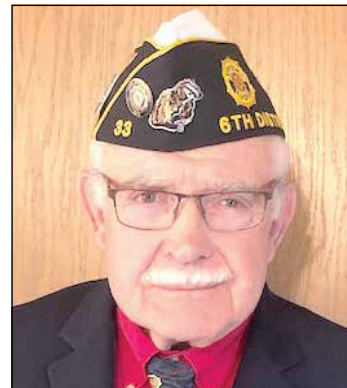
Member of Funeral Honors Team Firing Squad.

Winnebago County Legion Council.

County Sgt. at Arms - one year.

County Vice Commander - 3 years and County Commander - 2 Years.

6th District Sgt. At Arms - 2013-2017.



Gail Minks
6th District Commander

6th District Vice Commander - 2019-2021.

6th District Commander - 2021 to present.

Delegate to Department Convention every year since 2009.

Delegate to National Convention - 2022 in Milwaukee.

Have completed the Legion Basic Course, Intermediate Course and am enrolled for the Advanced Course in November 2022.

Married to my wife, Margaret, for 55 years; have 2 children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Wife and daughter are both members of Auxiliary Unit 33.

I would appreciate your vote at the Department Convention in 2023 to allow me the privilege and honor to serve the Legion at the next level.

In my early years in the Legion, I never thought of holding these higher offices. Once I took the bold step and started accepting these positions, it has become interesting, challenging and enjoyable. The fear and intimidation factors have disappeared.

Once again fellow Legionnaires - I would appreciate your vote.

Linda Pfeifer for Department Vice Commander

I am announcing my Candidacy for Department Vice Commander and have the endorsement of Willey-Herda Post 192, Milwaukee Fourth District and the Milwaukee County Council.

My eligibility is through the Women's Army Corps from 1965-68.

Walter and I joined the Legion 49 years ago. I became active right away as Historian, 3rd Vice, 2nd Vice, 1st Vice and Adjutant. I took a 21-year hiatus to teach at St Elizabeth Ann Seton and St Matthias Parishes. I returned to active legion duty, as 1st Vice, Editor of the Post 537 Todd Tattler, and 4th District Newsletters. We transferred to Willey-Herda Post 192, in Franklin to help revitalize the Post. There I served as 1st Vice; Commander and currently as Finance Officer, and Editor.

I have worked my way through the 4th District chairs and am currently 4th District Commander, and continue as 4th District Editor.

Since June 2014 I have volunteered at the VA Medical



Linda Pfeifer
4th District Commander

Center an average of 6 hours a day, currently as DAVA dispatcher. I am currently the Commander of DAVA Milwaukee Chapter 19, the Legion delegate on the Milwaukee County Veterans Association, at the War Memorial. I am also a Trustee on the Kimberly Clark Project for the Department of Wisconsin.

This past summer I was chairperson for the Registration Committee for the National Convention in Milwaukee.

I have served on the Department Communications Committee, Membership Committee and currently the Children and Youth Committee.

I am the correspondent for Milwaukee 49 at 8 Voiture 1519.

I am a PUFL member of the Auxiliary. Our daughters and granddaughter are PUFLS of the Auxiliary. Our Son is a Legion and SAL member and our grandson is a SAL member.

I have completed the Wisconsin Legion College Programs. I took an oath to serve in 1965 and my goal is to continue that oath:

To Continue to Serve our Veterans.

SUPPORT FOR POST 395 KINGSTON



ABOVE: American Legion Post 395 Kingston, WI recently recognized Lois and Rick Dornfeld with a plaque for their support of the Post. They have given their time & space for the Post's April and October pasta and lasagna dinners held each year.

BELOW: Commander Thomas Medick, June Klawitter, Lois and Rick Dornfeld, David Pollesch.



ECHO TAPS AT NEENAH VETERANS DAY



Neenah High School students Evie Gruber and Joe Kaiser performed Echo Taps at the recent Veterans Day Ceremony held November 11 at Shattuck Park in Neenah.

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



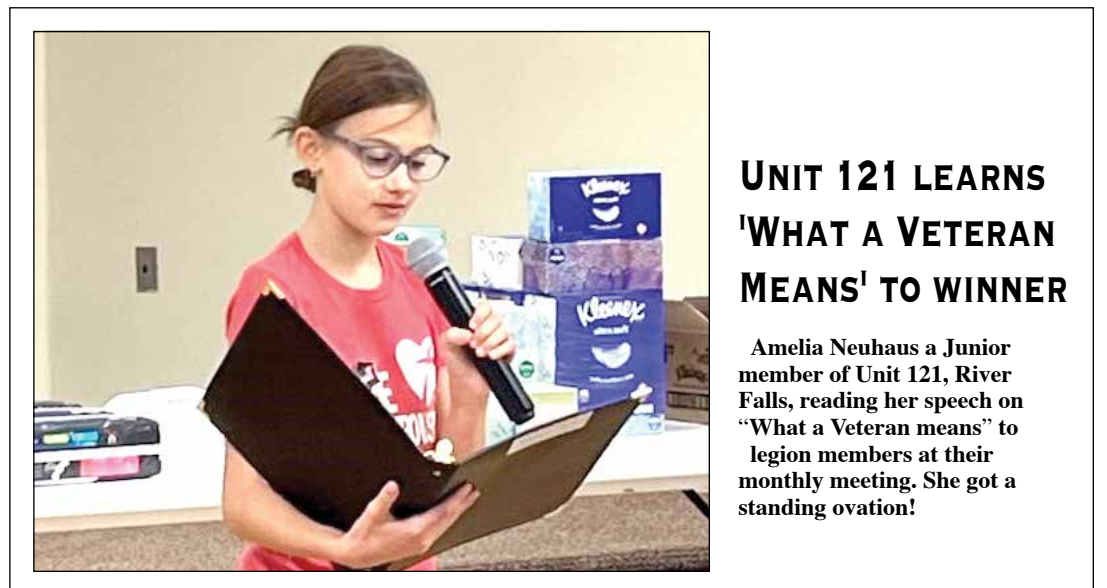
PEWAUKEE POST 71 HONOR GUARD IN SUSSEX



Pewaukee Post 71 Honor Guard provided service for a funeral in Sussex on Tuesday evening, November 15.

67 YEARS OF SERVICE AT POST 33

Post 33 Commander Mike Dart presenting the Continuous Service Award (67 years) to George Schroeder (on right). In the middle is George's son George, an SAL member.



UNIT 121 LEARNS 'WHAT A VETERAN MEANS' TO WINNER

Amelia Neuhaus a Junior member of Unit 121, River Falls, reading her speech on "What a Veteran means" to legion members at their monthly meeting. She got a standing ovation!



CARE PACKAGES IN AMERY



Larson Torgerson Post 169, Amery, WI Commander Mark Starsky and Past Commander Bill Hegg, donate funds to teacher Emily Larson and the Amery High School FCCLA team for their ongoing program to send care packages to service members throughout the world. To date they have mailed over 500 care packages to our service members as well as hosting an annual Veterans Day breakfast that they prepare and serve.

HONOR FLIGHT BREAKFAST IN BUTTERNUT



On September 11, 2022 American Legion Post 272, Butternut attended the annual Honor Flight Breakfast that was hosted by the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Post 50 at South Fork Bar & Grill in Lugerville, WI, owned and operated by Chuck and Pam Goebel. American Legion member Len Cermak went around to the various businesses in Butternut and collected money for the September and October Honor Flights. He was presented with a beautiful plaque for his efforts for the past three years. Post 272 Commander Jerald Wegner and American Legion Auxiliary members Connie Wegner and Janet Morris also presented the AMVETS Aux. with a check in the amount of \$550. Pictured left to right are: American Legion Auxiliary members Connie Wegner and Janet Morris, Post 272 Commander Jerald Wegner, Am. Legion member Len Cermak and AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Post 50 President Dolores Gradinjan.

WWII PILOT TALKS SERVICE AT PHILLIPS PROGRAM



Art Fox and Post Commander Douglas Rasmusen, Post 122 Phillips, took part in the Veterans Day program at the Phillips High School.



Keynote speaker was Retired Air Force pilot, Col. Art Fox. At age 99 he talked about his WWII combat flying service. He flew in Korea and retired in 1966.



POST 341 COMPLETES 18-MONTH RENOVATION

Darling-Gunderson Post 341 in Birnamwood completed a roughly 18-month renovation of the Post building in August 2022 and held an open house in conjunction with our annual Legion Summer Picnic to allow members of the community to see the amazing results.

Over the years, the century-old building had suffered damage to the hardwood floor and the original stone and mortar foundation, as well as lack of maintenance. Other than a new roof in 2010 and new windows in 2015, the building was in truth, decrepit-looking and, as a result, reflected poorly on the Post.

After discussing various basement/foundation options, the Post voted to raise the building in order to replace the old foundation with a poured concrete basement. Once that first step was complete, the upper

structure was addressed, stripping it down to the bare studs. The original half-log siding was replaced with a maintenance-free version that maintained the original look. Other improvements included installation of a handicap-accessible front entrance and bathroom. The walls and ceiling were paneled with knotty pine. One of the true highlights is the refinished original hardwood floor. We also repurposed the original front door, mounting it on the gun locker. Landscaping was improved as well, adding a concrete pad with benches around the flagpoles and Post sign.

Thanks to the efforts of a resolute and talented core group of Legionnaires and the support of local businesses and individuals contributing goods, services, and funds, Post 341 now boasts a home that the members and the Village of Birnamwood can be proud of!

GERNDT HONORED AT WABENO WAR MEMORIAL



What a beautiful day today to honor all Veterans, especially former Suring graduate Captain Gerald Gerndt, USAF. Mr. Gerndt is a Vietnam War Veteran and was a Prisoner of War for 5 1/2 years. Wabeno and Suring American Legion posts honored Mr. Gerndt's service by dedicating a bench at the Wabeno War Memorial park. There was also a nice memorial area honoring Wisconsin OEF/OIF (Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Iraqi Freedom) veterans that made the ultimate sacrifice. Never forgotten!
 Written by Suring Legion, submitted by Wabeno Legion.



RESERVISTS MAINTAIN TIES FROM 1974

In 1974, Beverly (Villagomez) Kracht Army Reserve from Texas, Bert Sisk Army National Guard Milwaukee and Jean Young Army National Guard 13th Evac Madison from Oconto, met each other for the first time at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, in 1975 Basic Training. They continued together at Advance Training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, as field medics, transferred to Fitzsimons Army Medical Center Denver, Colorado, as Clinical Specialist and Graduating in Nursing Career.



The three stayed in contact and met back together in 1987, now 37 years later reunited again recently in Oconto. During their time together they spent many hours reminiscing of their ongoing experience, comradeship and accomplishment they received while serving their Country in the Army as Field Medics and Nursing.

Left to right: Bert Sisk, Jean Young and Beverly (Villagomez) Kracht.

Since then Beverly continued in Nursing in Texas, recently retired, Bert continued in Nursing in Milwaukee and became an Elementary Teacher for 25 years and recently retired and Jean continues to work in Nursing in Oconto with Prevea.

POST 208 RECOGNIZES VETERANS FOR SERVICE



Ten Vietnam War Era Veterans and their families were recognized for their service and sacrifice on Sunday, October 9, 2022, at a program at American Legion Post 208, Rio, Wisconsin, as part of the Vietnam War Commemoration Partners Program. Honored Veterans, standing, (L to R): Francis Schliesman, Ray Fleegel, Roger Neuhoff, Rodney Hacht, Chairman Dale Gajdosik, Leonard Kasper, Commander Terry Schraufnagel. Seated: Scott Thompson. Not pictured: Veterans Glen Tiedt and James Higgins.

TWO VETERANS, FAMILIES HONORED BY POST 208



Two deceased Vietnam War Era Veterans and their families were honored and recognized on Sunday, October 9, 2022, at the Post building, American Legion Post 208, Rio, Wisconsin. Honored deceased Veterans were brothers who both served in Vietnam, Jerrold Joseph "Joe" Schliesman, and Eugene Michael "Mike" Schliesman. Sergeant Joe Schliesman was killed in action in Vietnam, November 17, 1965. Center is Rose Schliesman Hein, sister of the Veterans, receiving honors on behalf of the Veterans and the Schliesman family. Among those shown are Chairperson Dale Gajdosik and Post Commander Terry Schraufnagel.

POST 149 HONORS TWO FOR SERVICE



Plaques were presented by Post 149 Membership Chair Dan Riviers (left to right) to Roger Knutson (Vietnam) for 50 years of membership and Richard Kosup (WWII) for 60 years of membership.

A 'REAL COOL' DONATION AT POST 149



A Post 149 plaque was presented to Sheet Metal Workers Union 18 for the donation/installation of an air conditioner at the Post (left to right) by Commander Bob Roska to Mathew Van Der Puy, Ken Liebenstein, Randolph Schmitt and Daniel Doebert (not shown), and Adjutant Chuck Stelzner.



LOCAL VETERANS ARE ON A MISSION TO SAVE THE OSCEOLA AMERICAN LEGION POST 221

By Nealy Corcoran
editor@osceolastun.com

Three men are on a mission. These three men are 12th District Vice Commander Joe “Chief” Roberts of Spooner, Polk County Commander Steve DuBois of Balsam Lake and 12th District Commander Scott Markle of Duluth/Superior. As retired Veterans and American Legion members, their mission is to rejuvenate the Osceola American Legion Post (Henry G. Mallin Post 221) and help start an Auxiliary or Sons of American Legion squadron.

Throughout the summer, Commander Roberts, DuBois and Markle have been busy traveling around Osceola to raise awareness about the closure, educate people about membership, encourage participation, canvass the community and meet with local business owners to find a new location for the Osceola Post. They also organized an informational gathering for those interested in learning more. The group hosted the informational meeting Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at the Osceola Senior Center.

Their mission started six months ago when the nine members of the Osceola Post recently decided to close. “Nationally, the American Legion Posts and organizations are shuttering their brick-and-mortar halls and locally Veterans Posts are closing at an alarming rate, often times their own memberships and local communities don’t know until it is too late,” explained DuBois in a letter to the community.

“The membership is aging out,” explained Roberts, who rallied to save and rebuild his local post in Spooner and increased membership from 60 to 151. “Our goal is to educate Veterans about membership and the type of support The American Legion provides to service members and their families. We want young Veterans to understand the benefits to membership,” he said.

According to DuBois, “These Posts, often decorated with military flags, dusty plaques honoring community service projects and faded photographs

of past members and friends are woven into the fabric of communities across the United States. These Posts are places where deep bonds that began in fox-holes overseas can be woven stronger, and places where generations of veterans have not only healed but chosen to give back to their communities.”

“We are getting real positive feedback and people are excited about saving the Post in Osceola,” said Roberts. “We decided to have a booth at the Osceola Community Fair as a way to reach out to people. We had 16 new members sign up and another 12 that expressed a lot of interest,” said Roberts. “Osceola needs a Post and we are committed to making it successful.”

OPERATION A.L.F. IS UNDERWAY

Greetings fellow Sons,

In this edition of the *Badger Legionnaire*, I would like to bring awareness of Operation A.L.F. to the Legion Family.

When Wisconsin first started its comfort dog program it was known as Josh. After several years, the creator of Josh decided it was time to retire him.

Because the Detachment of Wisconsin believed in this program and because the members of the Sons were so moved by the attachment that the children had to these comfort dogs it was decided to seek a replacement for Josh.

After an extensive search and naming process, we decided on the new comfort dog name A.L.F (American Legion Family)

A.L.F. is a second-generation comfort dog that is given out to loved ones who are left at home when there is a deployment or in some cases a tragic event that affects a military family. Everyone that has been part of deployment whether it be parents, grandparents, children, or those who volunteer to hand out the dogs has witnessed the difference that A.L.F. can make.

The Detachment of Wisconsin is the only Detachment that has a program such as A.L.F. and we are proud of that fact.

Operation A.L.F. is fully funded through donations from the members of the Wisconsin Legion Family. There is never a cost to those that receive A.L.F. and A.L.F. is NEVER sold.

If you would like more information about the A.L.F. program or to make a donation, please contact the Detachment Children and Youth Chairmen Robert Sirovina Jr. by calling 608-745-1090. The opera-

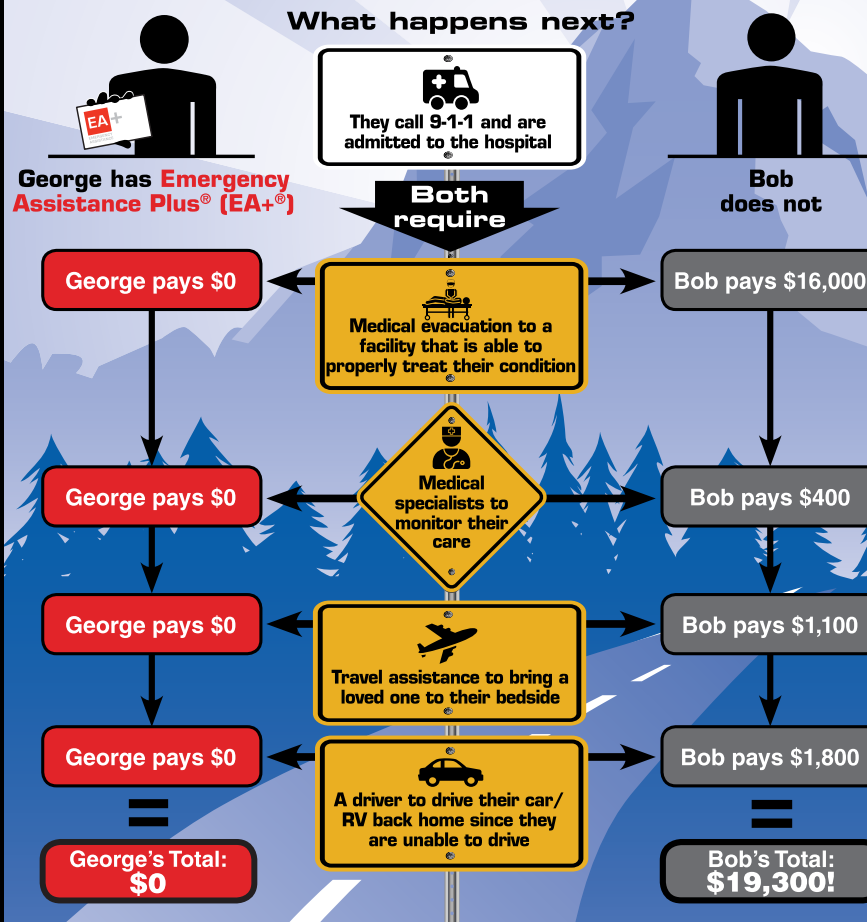


tor will give you contact information.

One other thing that comes to mind and that should be noted. I was invited to speak to the Legion Auxiliary at Mukwonago in the spring of 2021. While at the meeting, I had the pleasure of meeting Susan Cesar. Susan is a quilter with the Mukwonago Auxiliary. I asked Susan if she would be able to make a quilt in the likeness of A.L.F. and which she agreed to try. The final results were truly amazing (see picture above). The quilt now hangs as a backdrop at deployments as well as other activities that involve A.L.F.

What if you were Bob?

George and Bob both go on a solo fishing trip to a beautiful, remote, town in Alaska every summer. While enjoying the idyllic scenery, they both notice chest pains — they are having a heart attack!



Emergency Assistance Plus is an emergency medical transportation service that goes beyond health and travel insurance. It coordinates and provides services for medical transportation, medical evacuation, and travel and companion assistance — services that your medical insurance usually does NOT pay for. You must call EA+ during your emergency so EA+ can make the arrangements for you.

**This is only an outline of the plan's features. Please read your Member Guide carefully to understand all the services available to you, as well as any rules and regulations.

Washington state residents must be traveling more than 100 miles away from Home to be eligible for EA+ services.

Learn more about how you can be protected by EA+. Call today to speak with a customer service representative at 1-888-293-4008. Or to apply online, visit www.thelit.com/ *Emergency-Assistance-Plus*

70-YEAR SERVICE AWARD



A continuous membership award was given to a Joseph Klein, for 70 years to Post 410.

65 YEARS OF SERVICE

Charles Lehman, who served during the Korean War, was presented his 65-year member pin by 12th District Commander, Scott Markle, at his 90th birthday party.



NEWS ALERT: A change was just made to VA regulations concerning the accepted Period of War for the Vietnam Era, which has been changed for in-country Veterans from February 28, 1961, to November 1, 1955, as the start date. The new dates of the Vietnam War for in-country Veterans are now November 1, 1955, to May 7, 1975. This rule change expands the period of acceptance to qualify for VA wartime pension to those who served in Vietnam. For further information, contact your local CVSO or our Service Office.



POST 258 GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMORIAL

At dusk on Sunday, September 25, Jacob Coppus Post 258 sponsored their third annual Gold Star Family Luminary Memorial in the Little Chute Windmill Plaza. Post 258 Rifle Squad is shown firing the Honorary Rifle Salute at this somber event for our Fallen Heroes. Attending were Gold Star Family members, Village President Mike Vanden Berg, American Legion Post Members, Auxiliary Members, Sons Of The American Legion and guests. Thanks to everyone who made this memorial a success.

THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE

SWEETSTAKES

RETURN BY JANUARY 24, 2023

Grand Prize
\$10,000 CASH!

2nd Prize
\$5,000 CASH!

3rd Prize
\$2,500 CASH!

4th Prize
\$1,000 CASH!

5th & 6th Prize
\$500/EA CASH

7th & 8th Prize
\$250/EA CASH

Show your support for

2023 ★ 2024

Daniel J. Seehafer

for
National Commander

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

It's Personal!

Veterans • Defense • Americanism • Youth

Daniel J. Seehafer — Candidate for National Commander

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

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

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

Please charge my gift to:
 Check
 Visa
 MasterCard
 American Express

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

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

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Thank you for your support!

AMERICAN LEGION POST 21 KENOSHA CELEBRATION HONORS MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES



Lillian Jilk, left, and Florence Klappa share a few words after both were honored by American Legion Post 21 during a brief ceremony at Casa del Mare in Kenosha on Monday. Jilk, 103, served as a nurse in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Klappa, 102, was honored for her 50 years as a continuous member of the American Legion Auxiliary.



Lillian Jilk and Florence Klappa are honored Monday during a brief ceremony that American Legion Post 21 held at Casa del Mare in Kenosha. Holding the cake are Post 21 Commander Matt Christensen and Unit 21 Auxiliary President Donna Lewens.



World War II Veterans, and Post 21's oldest members, Lillian Jilk (103) and George Peter (99) at a previous ceremony for Lillian. George had been the oldest member until that time. He holds no grudge though and was pleased that he is no longer the oldest person around.



Nathan Gear
Department
Adjutant

★ DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT ★

Hello Friends, Families, and Legionnaires,

THANK YOU to our Veterans and Families for your continued service and sacrifices.

This year's Veterans Day was extra special to me. The

Department Commander and I traveled to Lac Du Flambeau to attend a Tribal Veterans dedication with American Legion Chicog - Skye Post 374 and the community. This was my first experience meeting our Veteran brothers and sisters of the Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. I was moved by their customs and traditions, the children that sang songs for the safety of their warriors, truly motivating. The Lake of Torches Casino hosted a special Veterans Day banquet honoring many from every branch of service. During this banquet, I met a remarkable WW2 Navy Veteran that served on the USS Missouri. He was full of life at 97yrs

young, his mind was sharp with details from the days he served talking about attacks, downtime on to include cleaning up the wreckage after a kamikaze hit, and witnessing the surrender of the Empire of Japan on the quarterdeck. I'm in awe as these Veterans walk daily in our ranks.

Attention to Orders, we will have some new members joining our Headquarters Team by the time this is published. This includes a new Camp Office Manager, a new Veterans Service Representative, and a new Bookkeeper at headquarters.

The Holidays are upon us and we have partnered with Berres Brothers for some special Legion "Vet Java" Coffee gift sets. They are available at berresbrothers.com/collections/gifts Get your orders in before the Grinch finds our limited supply. Also, please make sure to Buddy Check your Veterans you haven't heard from in a while.

The Department Headquarters Team wishes you a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!



Paul Fisk
Legislative
Chair

★★ LEGISLATIVE CHAIR ★★

The midterms in Wisconsin have been completed. State government will remain divided. The Republicans increased their majorities in the Assembly and the Senate; however, they still do not have a majority sufficient to override a veto by Governor Evers who will remain in the East Wing of the Capital.

Last week the republicans met to select their leaders for the next two years. Representative Voss (R) Rochester and Senator LeMahieu (R) Oostburg were both re-elected to their positions of Assembly Speaker and Senate Majority Leader respectively. We look forward to working with both on the many issues that affect Wisconsin Veterans and their families. On these issues, we will need to bring the legislature and Governor together. The Democrats are meeting later this week to select leadership.

Approximately 30% of the legislature is new. Our challenge is going to be educating these members on the issues. It can be assumed that they are not familiar with our issues i.e., the Disabled Veteran Surviving Spouse Property Tax Credit. A coalition is already forming to work on this critical issue.

The federal midterm results are not settled, to say the least. The Democrats will maintain a slight majority in the U.S. Senate. If the Republicans win the runoff in Georgia things will remain as is. It appears that the Republicans will have a small majority in the House, less than five votes. The finger-pointing has begun. There are challenges in the leadership elections in both bodies.

During the next two years, we must be able to work on both sides of the aisle to make progress on our issues. Working together with other veteran organizations and non-veteran supporters we make incremental changes to make life better for Veterans.

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION . . .

EFFORTS HELP CAMP WEATHER SNOWY, FRIGID WINTER



Jim Klement
Camp American
Legion Director

The snow is falling and the temperatures are dropping but Camp American Legion is ready for the winter thanks to some very special Legionnaires!

The Belgium Boys from American Legion Melvin Wester Belgium Post 412 have been coming up for over 60 years helping with Camp. They work on electrical items such as the outside lights to adding outlets for freezers. Last spring, they moved a light pole to replace one that was knocked down. The floor crew replaced

tiles in the main lodge and put a fresh new coat of wax to make the floor sparkle like brand new. They also take care of most of our motorized vehicles. As I write this, there is someone that is on their way to Camp to pick up our failing tractor and gator to take back and fix for Camp. Lastly, I cannot forget the water crew. They are the first to come up in spring to turn on all the water to each cabin and always the last to leave in fall to make sure all the water is drained and each cabin is ready for winter. Camp American Legion could not operate without you. Thank You!

Last week we had Veterans at Camp with the sole purpose of shooting a huge Northwoods buck during archery season. This was a great first hunt on Camp American Legion even though a deer was not taken. Everyone had a good time and had a chance to relax and reconnect with themselves as they sat in the stands and watched as mother nature provided the most beautiful sunrises and sunsets.

The summer is coming quickly and we are already getting applications in every day for next year. If you have never attended Camp, put in an application. If you do not want to be a camper then become a volunteer. If you have a skill in crafting, we are always looking for someone to teach. If you like to fish, we need boat captains. If you just generally want to help, we always have something to do. Please put in an application, you will love it.

If your Post would like to do something for Camp, how about adopting a week? Bring your Post up for the week and volunteer as a Post. Please contact Camp for available weeks.

Please contact Camp if you have any questions on how you can become involved in Camp American Legion.

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



"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

2023 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

January 12-15 • Radisson, Green Bay



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All schedules are subject to change - *Indicates a change to previous versions

Thursday, January 12, 2023

9:00 AM-5:00 PM	Legion Office	Executive Board Room
5:00 PM-7:00 PM	American Legion Foundation Meeting	Tuscarora

Friday, January 13, 2023

7:00 AM-6:00 PM	Legion Office	Executive Board Room
7:00 AM-6:00 PM	Registration	Main Hall
8:00 AM-5:00 PM	Exhibits	Main Hall

8:00 AM-10:00 AM	Membership Committee	Oneida
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10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Fundraising Committee	Cayuga
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Legislative Committee	Seneca
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Religious Emphasis Committee	Onondaga
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Convention & Activities Commission	Mohawk
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	WALLECA (Law Enforcement Academy)	Tuscarora

11:30 AM-1:00 PM	Past Dept. Vice Commander Lunch	Grand Council Ballroom
12:00 PM-1:00 PM	District Commander Lunch	Michigan

1:00 PM-3:00 PM	VA&R Committee	Tuscarora
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Americanism Committee	Oneida
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Policy Committee	Seneca
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Finance Committee	Mohawk
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Children & Youth Committee	Cayuga

2:00-5:00 PM	SAL Committee Meetings	Huron
3:00 PM-5:00 PM	Hospital Committee	Oneida
3:00 PM-5:00 PM	Camp American Legion Committee	Mohawk
3:00 PM-5:00 PM	Marketing & Communications Committee	Onondaga
3:00 PM-5:00 PM	National & Homeland Security Committee	Cayuga
3:30 PM-4:30 PM	Golf Association	Seneca
3:30 PM-4:30 PM	Dual Members Club Meeting	Tuscarora
4:00 PM-7:00 PM	GNUTS Social Meeting	Michigan
5:30 PM-6:30 PM	Past Commanders Club Meeting	Tuscarora

Saturday, January 14, 2023

7:00 AM-6:00 PM	Legion Office	Executive Board Room
7:00 AM-3:00 PM	Registration	Main Hall
8:00 AM-5:00 PM	Exhibits	Main Hall
7:30 AM-8:30 AM	Past Department Commanders Breakfast	Michigan
8:00 AM-3:00 PM	Auxiliary-TAL Joint Session at 8 AM	

8:00 AM-11:00 AM	Auxiliary Session at 10 AM & Juniors Session at 1 PM	Grand Council Ballroom
8:00 AM-10:00 AM	Post Commanders Course	Ontario
8:00 AM-10:00 AM	Motivational Leadership/Membership Engagement	Oneida
8:00 AM-10:00 AM	Funeral Honors	Bear
8:00 AM-10:00 AM	Public Relations Tool Kit- How To	Tuscarora
8:00 AM-10:00 AM	Service Officer Training	Seneca

10:00 AM-1:00 PM	2nd District Oratorical Contest	State Board Room
10:00 AM-1:00 PM	2nd District Oratorical Holding Room	Plaza Club
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	MyLegion.org-Recruiting-Retention	Mohawk
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Motivational Leadership/Membership Engagement	Oneida
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Funeral Honors	Bear
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Interactive Suicide Prevention	Onondaga
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Be The One	Turtle
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Service Officer Training	Seneca

12:00 PM-1:00 PM	National Appointment Luncheon	Michigan
12:00 PM-1:00 PM	Chaplains Luncheon	Restaurant

1:00 PM-3:00 PM	How To Start a Squadron w/Q&A	Huron
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	County Commander Course	Ontario
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	MyLegion.org-Recruiting-Retention	Mohawk
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Public Relations Tool Kit-How To	Tuscarora
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Be The One	Turtle
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Wisconsin Gaming Commission Course	Cayuga
1:00 PM-1:30 PM	Baseball Closed Session	Oneida
1:30 PM-3:00 PM	Baseball Directors Meeting	Oneida

3:00 PM-5:00 PM	SAL DEC	Huron
3:00 PM-4:00 PM	Consolidated Post/Squadron Reporting	Seneca
3:00 PM-5:00 PM	Wisconsin Gaming Commission Course	Cayuga
3:00 PM-5:00 PM	Generational Leadership Issues	Ontario

5:15 PM-6:00 PM	Catholic Church Services	Mohawk
5:15 PM-6:00 PM	Protestant Church Services	Oneida
5:30 PM-11:00 PM	Luau into the Keys-to Success	Three Clans Ballroom

Sunday, January 15, 2023

7:00 AM-6:00 PM	Legion Office	Executive Board Room
8:00 AM-9:00 AM	Four Chaplains Service	Ontario
9:00 AM	Department Executive Committee	Grand Council Ballroom

CHICOG/SKYE POST 374 HOST VETERANS DAY



TOP LEFT: Dept. V-C John Polzin, Dept. Com. Julie Muhle, Brig Gen. Ret. Joni K Brown Mathews, Dept Adjutant Nathan Gear. BOTTOM LEFT: Tribal Council Leader John Johnson SR and Brig. Gen. Joni Brown Mathews. ABOVE: Post Adjutant Charles Carufel, Ret Brig. Gen. Joni K Brown Mathews, Post 372 Vice Commander Bill Wildcat giving Tribal blanket.

VETERANS DAY DINNER FOR ALL AT POST 51



Berg-Hemker-Olson Post 51 puts on a free Veterans Day dinner for all Veterans who wish to attend, no matter where they are from or their Legion membership status. This year the dinner was on November 7 and was well attended by Veterans, family members and friends of the Legion. The dinner is sponsored by the entire Post family, but much of the work is done by special friends of the Legion and the SAL. These friends are not eligible to join any of the American Legion Families, but volunteer their time for this event out of their support of our Veterans. It was our honor to put on this dinner for all Veterans and was made extra special this year by the attendance of two World War II Veterans.



★ AMERICAN LEGION ★
FOUNDATION

VETERANS BETTERING
TOMORROW

Anonymous Donor Matches
First \$50 Challenge

Paul Fisk
Foundation
President

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

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

LET'S BREAK THE BANK – CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!

Wisconsin American Legion Foundation
P.O. Box 827
Portage, WI 53901

DON'T FORGET THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE
FOR 2022 DONATIONS.



★★ MEMBERSHIP ★★
ACE IS AT THE PLACE

"Tammy, where is the acetaminophen?"
"The same place it was yesterday, John."

I have a sneaking suspicion that my new nickname in the office is "Ace," for the first two months here in Portage have been not so much a learning experience as they have been, well, a learning experience that has challenged a slumbering mind.

Whew! I forgot what it was like to work in an office culture. I spent the last 13 years teaching at various colleges, so my "office" was really my classroom where I would form minds by creating agendas, developing curricula, and promoting ideas and discussion. Needless to say, I had one computer and one software. Those days are gone. The activity here, the three computers in my office, and the various software and programs to familiarize myself with has been a challenge, but I am meeting it with all of your support and encouragement. My best part of the day is helping all of you solve your membership questions and to assist you the best I can with Mylegion.org. However, tech support is another matter, and if you are having technical issues with Mylegion.org, the number to call is 833-253-9995.

In the meantime, it has been great to see our weekly numbers continue to rise. So many Posts are doing a great job gaining transfers from our HQ roster of unassigned members, thus inviting these men and women to get active in their local Posts. SAL continues to grow as we add squadrons. It is wonderful to see active SAL members add their own children to the rank and file, children often as young as one to two years old, earmarking them as the future to help move forward the torch of The American Legion.

It is good to receive your calls and to assist you as you prepare your membership reports for your upcoming Post meetings, and I am ready to share any knowledge or resources I can to help you to meet your numbers and to enhance your Posts. I have ideas, and don't forget the tool kit on Wilegion.org
Pick up new member applications and follow me!



50-YEAR
MEMBERSHIP
IN ELLSWORTH

Commander Jim Delamenter, American Legion Post 204, Ellsworth, presents Barry Foy with a certificate for 50 years of membership.

PORTAGE AREA VETERANS HONOR GUARD IN ACTION



Post 47, Portage Area Veterans Honor Guard, HQ, Portage PD, Portage Fire and Columbia County Sheriff's Department took part in pregame activities prior to a high school football game.

POST 340 TRIO RECOGNIZED FOR MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES



Commander Carlton Nehring recognized three members of Berlin Post 340 with Membership Awards. Honored were (from left) Raymond Boeck, 55 years; Bill Drecktrah, 50 years; and Gary Lawrence, 50 years.



BABCOCK POST 322
DONATES EQUIPMENT

In September, the James Knutson Post 322 of Babcock, WI, made two donations to the local community in the township of Remington. A slightly used but fully operational "Jaws of Life" unit was procured and was in turn donated to the Remington Volunteer Fire Department for use in crash victim extrication. Post 322 also made the donation of an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) unit to be kept at the Remington Town Hall, located in Babcock, WI, for emergencies that may arise during gatherings at the town hall.

ABOVE LEFT: Remington Volunteer Fire Dept. pose with the donation. From left to right: Greg Regalia, Commander Post 322; Russ LaMarche, Veteran and Camp Victory BOD; Greg Jensen, volunteer fireman and USMC Veteran; Tony Kosharek, fireman, Army Ranger Veteran and Post 322 member; Bob Diedrick, fireman, USN Veteran and Post 322 member; Jim Kitchen, Veteran and Camp Victory BOD. Missing Phillip McKeel, fireman, USAF Veteran and Post 322 member.

BOTTOM LEFT: An AED presentation was held at Remington Town Hall. From left to right: Greg Regalia, Commander Post 322; Kathy Plucinski, Remington Town Chairman; Bob Diedrick, Town Supervisor and Post 322 member; and Travis Simonson, Town Supervisor.

Article submitted by Commander Greg Regalia of Post 322.



★★★ VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER ★★★

HAPPY HOLIDAY BITS OF KNOWLEDGE

During this holiday season, I hope this finds you all happy and healthy. I have a few bits of knowledge I want to impart in this article.

Due to COVID, many virtual hearing-capable facilities closed their doors or otherwise stopped providing a place to attend Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) virtual hearings. Veterans or family members would sometimes have to drive hundreds of miles to the nearest VA virtual conference-capable location. This resulted in long waits and many hearing no-shows. Through the initiative and diligence of Matt in our Department Service Office coordinating efforts with County and Tribal Veterans Service Offices statewide, he was able to coordinate 62 new locations that were able and willing to facilitate virtual board hearings. Matt then coordinated with the VA's program specialist in charge of scheduling Board of Veterans appeals hearings in Wisconsin to get hearings scheduled as close to the individual as possible. Within this last year, the no-show rate for Board of Veterans Appeals hearings in Wisconsin has dropped over 38%. This teamwork has benefited the entire Wisconsin Veteran community, as the VA has used this added capability when scheduling all Wisconsin BVA hearings.

Hazaaa! It has been phasing in for three years and beginning on the annuity payday February 1, 2023, surviving spouses will receive their full Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) payment from DFAS and their full Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payment from the VA. The SBP-DIC Offset is fully eliminated on January 1, 2023.

You have seen and heard the ads. The "Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022" allows for an individual, or the legal representative of such an individual, who resided, worked, or was otherwise exposed for not less than 30 days during the period beginning on August 1, 1953, and ending on December 31, 1987, to water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, that was supplied by, or on

behalf of, the United States may bring an action in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina to obtain appropriate relief for harm that was caused by exposure to the water at Camp Lejeune. This is commonly referred to as a tort action. Note: Any tort payment for these cases, will be recouped by VA if an individual is also granted VA compensation for the same harm.

So, a \$100,000 settlement via tort would cause VA to withhold payment until the tort amount is reached before paying the claimant. Normal tort windows close after two years. This would mean, this allowance ends 8/10/2024.

A little-known VHA rule – Veterans determined by VA to be Catastrophically Disabled are exempt from inpatient, outpatient, and prescription copays. The Catastrophically Disabled determination of a Veteran is a VA clinical decision that may be requested. Per the Title 38 § 17.36 (e), catastrophically disabled means to have a permanent severely disabling injury, disorder, or disease that compromises the ability to carry out the activities of daily living to such a degree that the individual requires personal or mechanical assistance to leave home or bed or requires constant supervision to avoid physical harm to self or others.

A change was just made to VA regulations concerning the accepted Period of War for the Vietnam era, which has been changed for in-country Veterans from February 28, 1961, to November 1, 1955, as the start date. The new dates of the Vietnam War for in-country Veterans are now November 1, 1955, on May 7, 1975. This does not affect the accepted period for Agent Orange exposure beginning on January 9, 1962 and ending on May 7, 1975. This rule change expands the period of acceptance to qualify for VA wartime pension to those who served in Vietnam.

For further information contact your local CVSO or our Service Office.



Mary M. Kolar
WDVA
Secretary

★★★ WDV SECRETARY ★★★

Greetings Legionnaires! Since the founding of our nation, women Veterans have played a critical role in our military history and often continue to lead in civilian life after their military service. Since 2009, the State of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs have recognized an outstanding woman

Veteran of the year. As a woman Veteran myself, speaking to an organization commanded by an extraordinary woman Veteran, Julie Muhle, it is an honor and privilege to elevate the significant contributions of a fellow sister Veteran.

On November 10, Governor Tony Evers announced our 2022 Woman Veteran of the Year is Natalie Isensee. She was recognized for her volunteer work on behalf of Veterans, and for her outstanding efforts in developing various support services for Veterans and active military employees in the workplace and beyond.

Natalie served as an officer in the Marine Corps from 2000 to 2005 including service in Kuwait and Iraq. Achieving the rank of Captain, Natalie followed her Marine Corps service by establishing herself as a stalwart advocate for military Veterans and their families.

Putting her passion and Veteran expertise to task, she is currently the Manager of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at WPS Health Solutions, leading a team of DEI professionals as they work to instill behaviors, systems, and inclusivity-awareness into the company's culture. Serving military Veterans and their family members is a

key aspect of their DEI strategy, as WPS seeks to be an employer of choice and a committed healthcare partner for military service members, Veterans, their families, and communities.

Earlier this year, Natalie was appointed to Governor Evers' Blue Ribbon Commission on Veterans Opportunity which I had the honor of Co-Chairing. Natalie helped develop a comprehensive plan to ensure Wisconsin continues to provide a post-military environment where Veterans and their families may thrive.

She is a leader in the Madison Chapter of Team Red, White, and Blue, serves as a mentor for Veterans experiencing mental health crises. She is also a member of the Dane County Veterans Service Commission. Natalie's service commitment serves as a shining example of the person – the Veteran – we each should strive to be.

I am delighted that our Women Veterans Program at the WDV promotes the recognition of women Veterans like Natalie. We must always look for opportunities to partner at federal, state, and local levels to continually meet the challenges and needs that our women Veterans face in our society. While we have accomplished much for women Veterans, we still have more to do. It is heartwarming to see individuals like this year's awardee, who make our task easier to promote the remarkable contributions of Wisconsin women Veterans today.

I am grateful for the work you and your fellow Legionnaires have done this past year, and continue to do, on behalf of our Veteran community in Wisconsin.

I wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday season.

HOLYLAND BOY SCOUT SUMMER CAMP



Holyland Boy Scout Troop 778, sponsored by Abler/Engel Legion Post 454 of Mt. Calvary WI and Blonigen Post 478 St. Cloud, WI reported on their summer camp activities at Camp Deborah located near La Crosse, WI at a recent meeting of Post 454. Troop 778 had a very successful week and received the Honor Troop Spirit award. Pictured representing Troop 778 are left to right: Leader Linda Brenner, members Joseph Brenner, Brayden Schmitz, Owen Birschbach, Isaac Petrie, Leader Jim Weber and Leader Jessi Petrie.

POST 534 SALUTES KOREAN WAR VETERANS

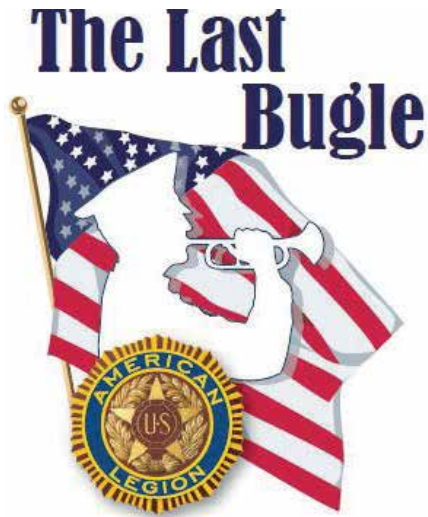


On Sunday, Nov. 13 Edwards-Foye American Legion Post 534, McFarland, honored a number of Korean War Era Veterans. This was a complete Post effort in that it followed the Auxiliaries' annual Veterans Day breakfast and the SAL assisted with the logistics. Honorees are: Seated (L-R) Norman Dahl, Kenneth Gerstner, Gordon Lee; Standing (L-R) Ed Brost, Conrad Campbell, Richard Markielewski. The event was covered by 3 Madison TV stations.

POST 435 SUPERIOR SUPPORTS CARL GULLO PARK



City officials, neighbors and veteran organization representatives gathered Sept. 27 in the East End of Superior, Wis., to unveil a new sign at Carl Gullo Park and share the story of the park's namesake. Pictured next to the new replacement sign are City Counselor Jennie Van Sickle and Butch Liebaert, Commander of the Richard L. Bong Post 435. Post 435 donated money to help defray the cost to replace the original sign as it was deteriorating. This city park is the only park in Superior, Wis., to be named after a Veteran. Carl Gullo served in the Army as a paratrooper from 1940 to 1945. He returned from serving his country and taught at the Wisconsin Indianhead Tech College in Superior, Wis.



We would like to post this retraction of names posted in the Last Bugle October 2022 edition. These Veterans are not deceased.

- Kim A. Ready, Post 0482
- Thomas Worlund, Post 0520
- Adeline Hedtkem, Post 0316
- Norman Mudgett, Post 0316
- Thomas Jenny, Post 0059

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

1 Germantown Donald J. Zoromski	44 Wabeno Robert W. Rohe K
3 Antigo Kenneth G. Ivanoski WWII	45 Elkorn Herbert W. Olwig K
10 Wausau John R. Hochberger WWII Franklin J. Wanta WWII	47 Portage Lynn L. Oestreich V Lynn H. Roundy K
11 Green Bay Chet A. Kukla WWII Gerald Fictum K Richard J. Lax V	51 West Salem Raymond J. Walter K Vernetta M. Fish WWII
15 Juneau Milton S. Kuenzi WWII	52 La Crosse Tom G. Hutson K
16 Cudahy Nick Anastas WWII	53 Eau Claire Lorraine L. Beaudin WWII
17 Arcadia Roger T. Reichwein V Darell M. Herold V	54 Marshfield Donald J. Bentzler K
19 Harford Joseph N. Oleske V John McInnis V	56 Fountain City George S. Kletzke K Merlin D. Sutter K
21 Kenosha Glenn L. Bishop V James Vanlone V	58 Hurley Steven Smith V
26 Baraboo Julius L. Henke WWII	60 Kimberly Jerald E. Ruechel WWII
27 South Milwaukee Thomas A. Zingale K	63 Clintonville John Moericke V James F. Ayres WWII
28 Valders Arlee Titel V	64 Ladysmith Roger A. Kromrey K Erland Lindelof
36 West Bend James R. Nixdorf K Richard W. Westerman K	66 Athelstane-Silvercliff Steven C. Kudirko V
37 Elk Mound William Thalacker K	69 Mayville Donald J. Abbott K Roger Gindt V
38 Appleton Rodney K. Sternhagen William B. Gauerke V	70 Oshkosh Thomas J. Galica V
39 Marinette Rodney L. Hemminger WWII David W. Doberstein	117 Shawano Richard M. Engh K Byron F. Christensen V
40 Bangor Roger Hundt V	118 Thorp Gregory L. Hoff G/L
42 Platteville James E. Kopp K	121 River Falls Arnold V. Roen WWII Michael A. Dockendorf V

Edwin Kalous WWII Michael J. Tyloch V 71 Pewaukee Donald B. Schoenhaar K 73 Neillsville Duane L. Peterson V 74 Oconto Charles M. Vaneyck Ervin F. Stuckart K 75 Fond du Lac 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 Dave Overbo PG 77 Chippewa Falls Don L. Leifheit K 79 Burlington Richard P. Shecterle WWII 80 New Richmond Jeffery R. Geving 81 Mauston Michael Gruszka V Kenneth D. Wilcox V 82 Port Washington Philip A. Scarpace V Leroy Bley WWII 83 Sheboygan John C. Yellstrom V Theodore Dekker K Craig A. Eirich G/L Fred Klauke K 87 Rice Lake Edward J. Lastufka K John R. Barrington V Robert J. Yarish WWII 88 Manitowoc James E. Zipperer V 89 Minocqua Royal Dallmann V 90 Ashland Thomas Zinnecker WWII 91 Oconomowoc Art Boettcher K James F. Quirk V 93 Tomahawk George E. Schuetz K Douglas A. Akey 98 Cumberland Dean Kolzow V 100 Sparta Rex Slayton WWII Mary Clark V William Roberts 106 Seymour Steve L. Carpenter V Bruce Teetzen V 108 Clear Lake David J. Stetler G/L 109 Lancaster Ralph H. Alcorn K 110 New Lisbon Michael W. Jacobson V 115 Elroy Allen D. Olson K 116 Coon Valley Allen Bushek V Richard M. Engh K 117 Shawano Roland C. Dobratz K 118 Thorp Gregory L. Hoff G/L 121 River Falls Arnold V. Roen WWII Michael A. Dockendorf V	124 New Holstein Alan Schmidkofer K 126 Brillion Harold Keuer V James A. Schreiber K 132 Siren John E. Lafond V 134 Boscobel Stephen B. Kretschman V 141 New Glarus Gary R. Klassy V 146 Beaver Dam Ervin F. Hammer WWII 149 Sheboygan Falls Earl E. Kneevers K 150 Wausaukee John F. Lundberg V 151 Madison Donald O. Boe K 152 Menasha Robert J. Oppelt V 154 Mondovi Dick A. McGee V 158 Maiden Rock Daniel B. Seipel V 164 Jefferson Robert A. Brunner K 165 Two Rivers John Parma K 167 Sauk City Norbert J. Roth K 169 Amery Gerald Carlson K Gary N. Emerson V Gary H. Schock V 173 Whitewater Dennis G. Salverson V 175 Loyal Tom Loos K John Olsen WWII Boyd B. Plummer V T.C. Thorson K 179 Chetek Donald E. Newman K 180 Milwaukee Neil J. Laack V James R. Anderson PG 183 Genoa City Charles B. Schuren G/L 185 Grantsburg Gordon C. Brandt WWII Timothy L. Curtin V 186 Independence Rudolph P. Gamroth K John T. Konter V 189 Watertown Vern E. Schumann V 196 Delafield Mark S. Corgiat V George G. Finch V 201 Tomah Charles C. Olson V Duane E. Owen K 204 Ellsworth Joseph A. Huppert WWII Doug Raehsler V 205 Janesville Richard S. Brodie K 208 Rio Eugene L. Ritter K 209 Orfordville Bruce A. Peterson K Jesse G. Haase K 210 Waupun Charles O. Schranz V 211 Florence Everett W. Braden V Byron F. Christensen V 214 Darlington Vernon L. Johnson K Adolph W. Blaser K Robert Buschor K 221 Osceola Eldred R. Anderson WWII
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224 Alma Corinne A. Janney V Burton G. Moe K 229 Mount Hope Virgil F. White K 234 Omro Clifford G. Maloney V Dalbert I. Saxon V Jack Lueck V 238 Greenwood Raymond A. Rondorf V 243 Plymouth Roger Fergens V Norman C. Halloran WWII 245 Cross Plains Raymond T. Laufenberg K 246 Genoa Mike Mika WWII 247 Glidden Frank Motola V 250 Adams Eugene E. Peterson V 251 Argyle John C. Gierhart V Harry L. Turner K 258 Little Chute Robert Bongers WWII 260 Deerfield Steven D. Biedermann V Carl R. Petersen V 262 Luxemburg Roger Wautlet V Leon A. Gillis WWII Richard Deterville 263 New London Peter J. Bellettiere V James L. Lambert WWII 269 Cushing Richard Lauring V Robert Avery K 270 Theresa Gary Erdmann V 271 Poynette James D. Nelson V 272 Butternut Robert A. Pospichal WWII 280 Coleman Darryl Rouse V 284 Holmen Daniel N. Staff V Harland Edmunds K Vernell S. Hesselberg WWII 288 Cedarburg Douglas C. Sorenson K 291 Augusta David L. Steele V 295 Bloomer Kenneth Gravunder WWII Dennis A. Sherrick V 299 Hales Corners Earl C. Schott K 305 Johnson Creek Michael D. Urban V 306 Green Lake Thomas E. Caestecker K Rodney C. Haferman V 316 Sheldon Thomas R. Panetti V 318 Lake Tomahawk John Joswiak WWII Kenneth C. Osborne V 327 Lyons William R. Mangold V 333 Sun Prairie James L. Dawson WWII Jerome W. Witherill V Carl H. Mueller K Raymond G. Becker K Lowell W. Meier K Robert Johnston PG 337 Pulaski 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 338 Cedar Grove James W. Crist V 347 Lomira Jerry A. Lafleur WWII Donald C. Whitty V 348 DeForest Jerry E. Alexander V 353 Cornell David R. Albers V Alvin E. Thomas V Charles B. Seidlitz V John K. Sargent V 355 Grafton Howard L. Thiede K 360 Waunakee Richard J. Reinhold K Leo A. Hendricks WWII 363 Denmark Ronald M. Cattelan V 364 Winneconne Paul O. Muehlenberg K 368 Taylor-Hixton Norbert C. Sedelbauer K 374 Lac du Flambeau Alden B. Bauman V 375 Mukwonago Edward L. Domino 377 Elcho Harold K. Fraley V Robert W. Welch V Lee F. Dinsmore WWII Jack Eaton K 386 Cascade George E. Meyer K James A. Carpenter K 391 Fremont Gary L. Runnoe V Denny Lamers V David M. Winter V 398 Plain Daniel Volk V Patrick Walsh K Norman E. Liegel V 401 Cambria Leroy R. Forslund K David Munro V 403 Webb Lake William E. Terbilcox K Verlin Brown V 410 Fredonia James R. Witherow V 415 Milwaukee Donald R. Vachon V Jim Ferrier V Raymond W. Kleppin WWII 416 Greendale Hugh Cannon K Robert S. Auer K 426 Milwaukee Richard R. Loreck K 434 Oak Creek Leon House V 435 Superior Vern Oaks V 437 Mazomanie Neil B. Hodgson P James W. Craney PG David L. Clason V 440 Clinton Bernard L. Haines K 445 Cashton Jon G. Torkelson K Victor Gutierrez V 447 Viola Ronald R. Curtis K 449 Brookfield Earl Wood K Harvey A. Kroening K Leo S. Brzezinski WWII
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Chuck A. Roloff V Elliott Schnackenberg V William J. Prohl K 453 Belmont Patrick J. McDonald K 454 Mt. Calvary Jerome J. Pickart K William L. Nett K 455 Milwaukee Napoleon White K Lloyd Hubbard V 457 Mequon-Thiensville Ronald Miller V 458 Wauzeka Robert Lenz K Alan K. Russell V 459 Eleva Edwin O. Todahl V Donald Matchey V James M. McBee V 461 Pembine Joseph P. Shafer K Craig Pauld K 464 Land O'Lakes Joseph L. Lemens GWOT 469 Marathon Alan E. Kleinschmidt V 470 Saukville Louis Gruman V Clarence T. Miller K 472 Milwaukee Jim Briggs V 479 Milwaukee William Barnes K 480 Presque Isle Albert J. Fletcher 483 Allenton Harold Reindl WWII Anthony H. Montag V 485 Rudolph David Goetz V 496 Sherwood Tony Mueller V 503 Dane Marcel J. Ripp V William P. Schilling V 506 Iron River Robert R. Miller K Leroy R. Forslund K David Munro V 403 Webb Lake William E. Terbilcox K Verlin Brown V 410 Fredonia James R. Witherow V 415 Milwaukee Donald R. Vachon V Jim Ferrier V Raymond W. Kleppin WWII 416 Greendale Hugh Cannon K Robert S. Auer K 426 Milwaukee Richard R. Loreck K 434 Oak Creek Leon House V 435 Superior Vern Oaks V 437 Mazomanie Neil B. Hodgson P James W. Craney PG David L. Clason V 440 Clinton Bernard L. Haines K 445 Cashton Jon G. Torkelson K Victor Gutierrez V 447 Viola Ronald R. Curtis K 449 Brookfield Earl Wood K Harvey A. Kroening K Leo S. Brzezinski WWII	Gerald Diermeier K 518 Green Bay George Torrey V Roger Lepire K Keith R. Watermolen V 519 Stetsonville Tom Lafontaine V 521 Fox Lake Jack Hollnagel V 523 Abrams Eugene E. Dombrowski G/L 524 White Lake Scott Dempewolf V 541 Northfield Richard C. Peters V Alan L. Chandler V Gene Mann V 543 Plover Donald E. Worzella V 546 Racine Rufus J. Perry V 550 Brackett Richard E. Mitchell K 552 Somers Covella D. Pierce K Gregg Vigansky V Robert Settini V Harold E. Scherer K 556 Baraboo John Whitecloud V Dale Whiteeagle PG 2930 Portage 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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MEMBERSHIP

Becky Mueller
Department Chair
clarencandbecky@aol.com
920-833-6048

'Tis the season to be joyful and thankful! Gnomes are popping up all over the department to work the mission and vision of our organization. Long-term (old) members and those just signing up are joining together to get excited and make a difference to our Veterans, our military, our families, and our communities. Keep up the good work recruiting new and excited members. (We are currently at the top of Central Division membership!)

I thank all of you who already renewed your membership for another year. Your membership chairmen also thank you for getting it done in a timely fashion. Let's have our renewals in by Christmas. Let's give our membership teams a holiday gift of having the bulk of their job done before the new year!

Some units take pride in sending in all their renewals at the same time in one mailing. Please, please don't do this. Send in your renewals as soon as you have some – do you realize that those members who do NOT have their memberships processed by Department after January are not members in good standing and not eligible for the many benefits that come with our membership? It does not matter if the unit membership chair has the renewal – it must be processed by Department to be completed and

counted. Don't do your members a disservice by sitting on their membership dues just for your pride of having it all completed at once. Send them in at least every other week. Stay current on your address updates and transfers, if any. If you have any deceased members send that information in quickly – don't wait until the end of the current reporting year.

FYI – members rejoining after an absence of a few years (or more) are not considered new members. Our membership number stays with us for life! Andrea Stoltz at headquarters or I can assist in finding that number if needed. Don't forget to give these members a new card – you can use the blank cards provided by National – just fill in the name, unit, etc. Once again, use their original membership number. Be sure to inform them of your meeting time and place. By the way, these rejoining members can pay for missed years to keep their years of service intact if they wish, but it is not required to become a current member.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday season. Please be aware that not everyone finds the holidays a good time of the year. Be alert to those who are struggling, not only financially, but also emotionally. BE THE ONE to notice. BE THE ONE to reach out. BE THE ONE to make a difference. May God bless all of you.

P.S. Don't forget to send in your new member entries for the awards and contests. The Auxiliary can participate in Commander Julie's membership challenge also!

2022 Membership Rankings

DISTRICT	GOAL %
District 3	71.37%
District 4	67.08%
District 2	66.75%
District 9	66.54%
District 12	66.07%
District 6	64.77%
District 7	61.55%
District 8	60.97%
District 10	60.87%
District 1	54.47%
District 5	51.95%
District 11	50.12%

2023 DAILY SWEEPSTAKES: DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 31

The deadline for mailing 2023 sweepstakes entry forms is December 31, 2022. Daily prizes pay \$15, Sunday prizes pay \$25, and one special day each month pays \$500! If you need additional entry forms, please contact ALA HQ at 608-745-0124. Only original entry forms will be accepted. While a donation is not required to participate in the sweepstakes, proceeds ensure the ALA can continue the mission of serving our Veterans, the military, and their families.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S PARADE OF CHECKS

National President Vickie Koutz will visit Wisconsin during the Midwinter Conference Saturday, January 14, 2023

Bring checks payable to ALA-Wisconsin, earmarked for NP Parade of Checks

To support her special project – supporting chaperones of Veterans attending the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

For those who can't attend Midwinter Conference but wish to participate, please mail checks to ALA-Wisconsin
P.O. Box 140, Portage WI 53901-0140
by January 9, 2023.



SAVE THE DATE
May 20, 2023
Romy's Nightingale
Black Creek, WI

Joint Testimonial of the American Legion Family

Watch future issues of this newspaper for more information as it becomes available.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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

"O God, our father, the searcher of men's hearts, help us draw near to thee." Fill our hearts in fellowship with cheerful worship to you, O God.

Increase our admiration for honest dealing and clean thinking. Guard against irrelevance and kindle our hearts in friendship. Also, soften our hearts with sympathy for those who are suffering. Pray for our elected leaders to include the military and law enforcement. All this we ask in your Holy Name Lord, Amen.

O Lord, I call to you: come quickly to me. Hear my voice when I call to you. May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice. ~ Psalm 141:1-2

As a reminder, please send your Chaplain's Book in for judging. Also, please send prayers for President Linda's Prayer Book that I will be assembling for her.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The American Legion Auxiliary headquarters office will be closed Thursday, December 22 at noon until Tuesday, December 27, 2022 and Monday, January 2, 2023 for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. May the holiday season bring you the gifts of joy, peace, love and hope in the year ahead.

*ALA Headquarters Staff
 Bonnie, Linda, Carrie, and Andrea*

2022-2023 PAST PRESIDENT PARLEY (PPP) DUES

PPP Dues are \$5 per member. Dues should be submitted to Department using the PPP Dues Form.

- Make check payable to:
ALA-Past Presidents Parley
- Complete PPP Dues & Donation form
(www.amlegionauxwi.org > Forms > PPP Dues & Scholarship Donation Sheet)
- Mail check and form to:
ALA Headquarters
P.O. Box 140
Portage WI 53901
- PPP cards will be mailed by
PPP Chairman Bonnie Jakubczyk

Questions? Please contact
 Bonnie Jakubczyk
 at bon6862@yahoo.com

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

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

The American Legion Auxiliary will be conducting a training session at TAL Midwinter Conference on Saturday, January 14, 2023, which the entire Legion Family is invited to attend. There will also be a special session for ALA Junior members and young SALs. Anyone interested in attending the Midwinter Conference must register (\$20 for reservations made before January 1, 2023 or \$25 after that). Registration and housing forms are on the Legion website at www.wilegion.org.

National President Vickie Koutz will also be conducting her official visit to Wisconsin during the Midwinter Conference. A Parade of Checks will be held in her honor on Saturday, January 14, 2023, with proceeds going to her special project – supporting the chaperones of Veterans participating in the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Checks should be made payable to ALA-Wisconsin and earmarked for NP Parade of Checks. For those who wish to participate but are unable to attend Midwinter, please mail checks to ALA-Wisconsin, PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901-0140.

The national organization will mail the final 2023 dues renewal notices on February 1, 2023. The mail list will be pulled January 3, so please pay

your membership dues as soon as possible to avoid receiving a renewal notice. If you receive a renewal notice but believe your dues were paid, you should contact your Unit Membership Chairman to ensure they were submitted to department. Dues are not considered "paid" until they have been **processed by Department Headquarters**. The February renewal notices will instruct members to send their dues directly to Department Headquarters so members do not lose any benefits. Members may also pay dues to their Unit or use a debit/credit card to pay online (www.ALAforVeterans.org) or by phone at 317-569-4570, Monday through Friday from 7:00 am – 3:30 pm (Central Time).

American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State (ALABGS) is scheduled from June 18-23, 2023. The reservation fee of \$400/delegate is due by January 31, 2023. If your Unit has decided it will no longer participate in the Girls State program, please notify Carrie Thrasher at department headquarters and your school before the school starts its selection process!

Unit Annual Year-End Report forms were mailed to all unit presidents in October. Members are reminded to track their volunteer hours and money spent to support Auxiliary programs to ensure they are included in the Unit's totals. Every Unit should submit a report by April 15, 2023 and acknowledge their members for all the hard work accomplished throughout the year. Department program chairmen use the information to prepare their annual reports for the national organization. Department Presi-

dent Linda Coppock may also review the Unit Year-End Reports to select Units for recognition at department convention.

Members are encouraged to become more familiar with the information posted on the department website, such as the 2022-2023 Red Book and bi-monthly unit mailings (on the *More* tab); District Presidents' Newsletters (*Dept Officers/Dist Presidents* tab); ALA program action plans (*Dept Chrmn/Action Plans* tab); current membership reports (*Membership* tab); and updated donation forms (*Forms* tab).

Looking for a last-minute holiday gift? Give the gift of ALA lifetime membership!!! PUFL applications can be found on the *Membership* tab of the department website and should be mailed directly to national headquarters. Please contact Linda Cason at department headquarters for details. Since the national organization is raising dues by \$6 effective with the 2024 membership year, now would be a great time to purchase a PUFL membership!

During this holiday season, please remember the military members who are separated from their loved ones, continue to pray for their safe return, and support their families during their absence.

ALA Headquarters will be closed from noon on Thursday, December 22 through Monday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday and Monday, January 2, 2023 for the New Year's holiday. We wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season and a happy 2023!

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Mary Petrie
Department Chairman
920-261-8161
mmrtpetrie@charter.net

"I continue to believe that if children are given the necessary tools to succeed, they will succeed beyond their wildest dreams!" – David Vitter, Former U.S. Senator

As President Linda Coppock said, "Believe!" To believe is to succeed in making a difference in a child's life.

Did you know?...

Over the years, JCPenney offered free haircuts for children, promoting its mission: helping people live better, which also helped stretch family budgets. Since 1999, the chain has fund-

ed hundreds of after-school programs and contributed millions of dollars to programs run by YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, 4-H, and United Way-funded agencies. Check their website for details on **kids zone**, which is offered the 2nd Saturday of every month (www.jcpenny.com, scroll down and click Newsroom).

ALDI partners with 501c3 nonprofits, including K-12 schools and faith-based organizations, benefitting children in the community through its Cares Community Grants. ALDI has a longstanding partnership with Feeding America, recognizing that lack of healthy food has serious implications on a child's physical, emotional, and mental health (www.aldi.us, scroll down and click Community).

The Home Depot hosts free Kids Workshops (in store/pick up) the first Saturday of the month

from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Partnering with Discovery Education, they built Science Fair Central and help STEAM-power classrooms and homes across the country. Students receive tools to take projects to the next level, preparing for future careers. Ten million K-12 students participate in science fairs and STEAM events annually (www.homedepot.com/kids).

Georgia-Pacific's Adoption Assistance Program is part of its benefit package, providing financial assistance for employees building a family through adoption.


These are a few options to enhance the lives of our children.

This year's Children & Youth focus is supporting the SAL on Operation A.L.F. and strengthening the Child Welfare Foundation through donations. A.L.F. is a great way to support military children when a parent deploys. Created to provide comfort, the soft, cuddly puppy does just that! Klinger, a horse, and his story can be enjoyed by kids of all ages. Check the SAL website (www.wisal.org) for specifics.

Whether recycling a tried-and-true C&Y project or applying your imagination to a new venture, record everything! Doing so as you go will make reporting a breeze.

Remember! The Youth Hero, Youth Caregiver, and Good Deed awards are presented year-round, so be on the lookout for potential recipients.

Per Lady Bird Johnson, "Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them." Our children are our future. Showing we believe in them, boosting confidence, and sharing tools to succeed will not only allow them to dream, but succeed beyond their wildest dreams.



POPPY SHOP

ORDER DEADLINE DECEMBER 15, 2022

Poppy orders will be processed in the order received and shipped as soon as they can be filled. Orders received after the new year may not be able to be processed or filled in time to meet your scheduled distribution dates.

DON'T DELAY – ORDER TODAY!

MISSION IN ACTION: UNIT 38 SUPPORTS KING VETERANS HOME



Appleton Unit 38 delivered brand new clothing for the members at King Veterans Home. The clothing was donated by JCPenney Appleton, thanks to the efforts of Cathy Wilbur. Pictured: Cathy Wilbur, Lori Bishop, Debra Ragen, and Rose Heinz.

UNIT 317 CELEBRATES MEMBERS!



Joyce Klinger, a member of Wolman-Minsky American Legion Auxiliary Unit 317 of Wautoma, celebrated 75 years of continuous membership. Joyce was presented with a certificate commemorating this milestone at the Waushara County Council Meeting. Joyce has held numerous offices for many years at both the unit and county levels. Pictured: Joyce Klinger and Delores Bruch, Unit 317 President.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Kay Grosskopf
Department Chairman
kkgros44@gmailcom

Welcome to “Cram as much as we can into the next four weeks” season! Yes, there are concerts, shopping, gift wrapping, children’s programs at school and church, work gatherings and family get-togethers, tree trimming, house decorating (be careful on ladders), baking, meals, and the list seems endless. This in addition to our already busy daily lives.

Our activities may include ringing bells, collecting for food pantries, prepping and serving holiday meals at shelters, caroling to those not able to get to concerts and church, or helping a neighbor, friend or Veteran with their holiday preparations.

Then there are the countless appeals for our donations. Be careful! Choose wisely. Try using Charity Navigator (www.charitynavigator.org) to confirm how the entity uses your gifts. One entity you don’t have to check is the American Legion Auxiliary! There is a plethora of programs that can use your support such as ALA Badger Girls State, AEF, VA&R, and numerous scholarships.

But all your Community Service doesn’t have to stop in four weeks!

New Year’s follows the wonderful Christmas giving season and New Year’s is famous for resolutions. Why not resolve to do a little more for the community where you live? Several ideas listed above can easily continue throughout the year. Make a resolution to spend an hour a week helping a neighbor (especially a Veteran neighbor), work or financially support a food pantry, visit a veterans home, or help at school. We just finished an election and we hear how they need poll workers. Sign up for the next one! The need for blood is critical. Save a life – or five. Give blood or have your Unit host a blood drive. The list goes on.

This is the season where you see “Believe” in many places. I Believe the ALA is capable of great things. I have seen it in action. I’ve heard about it in conversations at meetings and conferences. Wow! But I also Believe we can do more. If one more Unit holds a blood drive. If one more Unit would help a Veteran, neighbor, or friend. If one more Unit has a bake sale and sends proceeds to AEF or supports a scholarship. Think of the difference we can make.

Of course, whatever you do, record your hours, donations, and mileage. I can’t believe I’m saying this, but I want to be looking at hundreds of Unit reports in April. Let’s show Congress who we are and why we matter.

In the spirit of service, not self, we advocate for our Veterans, active military, and their families.

WISCONSIN GETS NEW & OLD MEMBERS EXCITED!



‘Believe’ in the American Legion Auxiliary!
Proceeds from T-shirt sales will help support our programs.
Use this link to make your purchase
[https://customink.com/fundraising/wisconsin-gets-new-old-members-excited.](https://customink.com/fundraising/wisconsin-gets-new-old-members-excited)

Material: 100% preshrunk cotton

AVAILABLE SIZES:	
SMALL – X-LARGE	\$25.00
XXL	\$27.50
XXXL	\$28.50
PLUS SHIPPING	

PLACE YOUR ORDER BY DECEMBER 31ST!

QUESTIONS — CONTACT LAURA CALTEUX AT LAURACALTEUX@YAHOO.COM

**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022
ALA DAILY SWEEPSTAKES
WINNERS**

September 2022

1	\$15	Nathan Kuenkel	Eau Claire
2	\$15	Eddie Belfeuil	Winneconne
3	\$15	Elizabeth Deitelhoff	Richland Center
4	\$25	Linda Ogarek	Plainfield IL
5	\$15	Carol Reinhardt	Juneau
6	\$15	Dorothy Kresheck	Hartford
7	\$15	Barbara Cwikla	Withee
8	\$15	Charlene DeBruin	Boyd
9	\$15	Judy Brendemuehl	Horicon
10	\$15	Amanda Szalewski	Wausau
11	\$25	Donald MacDonald	Madison
12	\$15	Carol Simonar	Luxemburg
13	\$15	Irene Morse	Wonewoc
14	\$15	Bonnie Petrick	New Lisbon
15	\$15	Pauline Dimpfl	Barneveld
16	\$15	Elizabeth Summers	Kenosha
17	\$15	Joann Ryan	Kittitas WA
18	\$500	Carrie Hall	Racine
19	\$15	Rosemary Schroeder	Wausau
20	\$15	Janet Moertl	Winter
21	\$15	Victoria Busch	Pulaski
22	\$15	Ellen O'Brion	Rio
23	\$15	Rita Menge	Montello
24	\$15	Karen Klein	Brussels
25	\$25	Avis Evenson	West Salem
26	\$15	Yvonne McCormick	Delafield
27	\$15	Karen Schmitt	Brookfield
28	\$15	Carol Astolpa	Cudahy
29	\$15	Lisa Bruch	Butternut
30	\$15	Charleen Barutha	Kewaskum

October 2022

1	\$15	Louise Reed	Montello
2	\$25	Kody Dickerson	Bloomington
3	\$15	Beverly Dragosh	Pembine
4	\$15	Sally Loper	Waukesha
5	\$15	John Stanek	Muscoda
6	\$15	Edward & Carol O'Neill	Washington Island
7	\$15	Patty Freeberg	Menomonee Falls
8	\$15	Margery Derby	Tomahawk
9	\$25	Monica Hinrichs	Cottage Grove
10	\$15	Beverly Dzienkowski	Cadott
11	\$15	Carol Gilbertson	Beldenville
12	\$15	Jayne Larson	Muskego
13	\$500	Linda Carney	Beaver Dam
14	\$15	Diana Ader	Menasha
15	\$15	Mary Marchese	Port Washington
16	\$25	Joann Scribbins	Richland Center
17	\$15	Wyatt Erickson	Shiocton
18	\$15	Lynn Cutter	Bedminster NJ
19	\$15	Beth & Randy Gonstead	Menomonee Falls
20	\$15	Rory Andersen	Auburn CA
21	\$15	Dianna Smith	Delavan
22	\$15	Linda Kastel	La Crosse
23	\$25	Yvonne Friday	Weyauwega
24	\$15	Pauline Teser	Salem
25	\$15	Richard Cooper	Hixton
26	\$15	Ted & Cheryl Eisner	Rib Lake
27	\$15	Sheila Schultz	Cross Plains
28	\$15	Dawn Linke	Waupun
29	\$15	Kerry Strupp	Fond du Lac
30	\$25	Patricia Katalinick	Chilton
31	\$15	Ellen Hayes	Independence

NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Our National President is working to bring awareness to our POW/MIAs. This is an important aspect of our National Security program. Units can participate with a moment of remembrance or a POW/MIA chair at meetings. Be sure to include this in your annual report.

Servicemember of the Year is now included in the National Security program. To nominate an enlisted service member currently serving in the Armed Forces, you can

find more information as well as the nomination form at: <https://member.legion-aux.org/salute-to-servicemembers-award>.

April is the Month of the Military Child. "Purple Up! For Military Kids" is every April 15. Wearing purple on this day, shows your support and thanks military children for their strength and sacrifices. May is the month of Military Family Appreciation, Military Spouse Appreciation Day is the Friday before Mother's Day, and Armed Forces Day is the Saturday before Memorial Day. These are the designated days to recognize all of those serving our country. Supporting blood drives by donating blood or volunteering at a blood drive is also a part

of National Security. There is always a need for blood donations.

Coupons for overseas commissaries are appreciated by those serving and living overseas at various locations. Information on how to send coupons and locations accepting them are on the department website: <https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/program-info>.

If your Unit is interested in being a resource for currently serving military and families when needs come up (thinking of gas/food gift cards) feel free to contact me for additional information.

Thank you for all you do to support those currently serving and their families!

MILWAUKEE COUNTY CONFERENCE OF UNITS

Invites all Legion Family Members and Guests

The 94th Annual George Washington Luncheon



Presidents Day
Monday, February 20, 2023
Meyer's Family Restaurant
4260 S 76th Street, Greenfield, WI



Social Hour: 11:00 AM
Opening Ceremonies: 11:45 AM
Lunch: Noon
Cost is \$30.00 per person

Come and celebrate our first President - George Washington our Veterans and the American Legion Auxiliary

For information contact Laura Calteux, 414-379-2943
Deadline for reservations is February 7, 2023

----- Detach here and return lower portion -----

GEORGE WASHINGTON LUNCHEON REGISTRATION

UNIT NAME & NUMBER _____

NAME OF EACH PERSON ATTENDING: Auxiliary, Legion, SAL, Guest

UNIT CONTACT & PHONE _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: # OF RESERVATIONS _____ X \$30.00 = _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MCCU

SEND TO: Laura Calteux, 7012 W Squire Ave, Greenfield, WI 53220

Reservation deadline: FEBRUARY 7, 2023—NO WALK-INS!!

WALASBA 9-PIN TAP TOURNAMENT SLATED APRIL 15-16

Units, Counties and Districts are encouraged to participate in the 2023 WALASBA 9-Pin Tap Tournament on April 15-16, 2023. This year's tournament will be hosted by Waunakee Unit 360 and held at Schwoegler's Park Towne Lanes in Madison. This is a 36-lane house so everyone will bowl the same weekend. Doubles and Singles will be bowled on Saturday and Teams will bowl on Sunday.

DEADLINE TO ENTER IS MARCH 15, 2023. Enter a team today! Invite members from other Units to put a team of four together. Last year four ladies made up a team from two different Units and took home the winnings! This could be your team! Questions? Please contact Jenni Syftestad, Chairman/Tournament Manager, at syftes@chorus.net.

UNIT 121 RECOGNIZES MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

Fletcher-Pechacek, Unit 121, River Falls held a Sunday brunch for their 50+ yr. members. 10 members out of 18 were presented with a certificate, a great brunch made and served by Auxiliary members and they got to take home a fresh flower arrangement! These ladies may not be as active as they once were, but they still ROCK the Auxiliary. From left-right, front row: Betty Swenson (65) Marie Deja (50) Olive Mulholland (65) Marlys Karras (50), back row: Alice Hanson (60) Betty Merriman (50) Mary Finkleson (55) Judy Johnson (50) Berneita Wienki (50) Hazel Fern (50). Betty Swenson still makes most of our monthly meetings, and Marie Deja and Judy Johnson helps in our bingo canteen twice a month.



WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY STATE BOWLING ASSOCIATION 21st NINE PIN TAP TOURNAMENT (47th ANNUAL TOURNAMENT)

Entry # _____ Date: _____

April 15 & 16, 2023

Schwoegler's Park Towne Lanes
444 Grand Canyon Drive
Madison WI 53719

ENTRY CLOSING DATE – Postmarked by MARCH 15, 2023

Mail entries to: Jenni Syftestad
205 Thompson Street, Verona WI 53593

The bowlers listed below enter the specified contest(s) at the annual WALASBA Tournament and hereby agree to comply in all respects with the rules of said tournament. The individual members are bona fide 2023 members of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary. When two or more teams are inter-bowling for doubles partners, please be sure to send your entries together. **WALASBA IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING SUBSTITUTES!**

Team Name: _____ Unit/City/Location: _____ Unit #: _____

Indicate what Events bowler is entering:

Team: (Will bowl on Sunday) Team per person = \$21.00

1. _____ YES ___ NO
2. _____ YES ___ NO
3. _____ YES ___ NO
4. _____ YES ___ NO

Doubles and singles will bowl on Saturday (please indicate your desired time) and Teams will bowl on Sunday.

Saturday, April 15 11am or 2pm Double/Singles
 Sunday, April 16 9am Team

Doubles and Singles: (Will bowl on Saturday)

Doubles = \$21

Singles = \$21

**All Events (if you want to enter all Events)
\$3.00 Per Person**

1. _____ YES ___ NO YES ___ NO
2. _____ YES ___ NO YES ___ NO
1. _____ YES ___ NO YES ___ NO
2. _____ YES ___ NO YES ___ NO

Bowling	\$8.00
Prize	\$6.00
Expense	<u>\$7.00</u>
Total	\$21.00
Per Person per Event	

Please complete fields (who receives mail)

Captain: _____ Ph: _____

Complete Address: _____
(City/State/Zip)

Email: _____

OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

TEAM _____ DBLS _____ SINGLES _____
ALL EVENTS _____ TOTAL PAID _____



Linda Coppock
Department
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone celebrates all Veterans as they deserve to be honored, not just once a year in November, but every day! Their service and sacrifice are what gives us the opportunity to be members of this great organization! The American Legion Auxiliary flourished while fulfilling the needs of Veterans upon their return from combat. The ALA grew in membership as they served the needs of our Veterans, active military, and their families.

Throughout the decades, Veterans' needs may have changed but the mission remains the same – to honor and support those who serve, to enhance the lives of the Veterans, active military members and their families, both at home and abroad.

December is Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Month. I want to give a "shout-out" to all the hospital representatives and their deputies for continuing to volunteer as ALA members have for years. Most volunteers are finally getting back into the VA facilities and are excited to continue their service. The pandemic did not stop units, counties, and districts from continuing to promote the program. Some continued to fill various VA facilities' requests. Baby showers were held. Clothing and personal items were collected, not just for the VA facilities, but also for homeless men and women Veterans.

ALA members even remembered the children of active military. Units and counties are called upon to bake cookies for the family farewell parties for deploying soldiers. I had the opportunity to attend a deployment event this past fall and it was a very moving experience, something I won't forget. It reminded me why Auxiliary members do what they do and do it so well. ALA members have big hearts and do amazing things! I am proud to be the ALA representative for this year!

January is National Security and Legislative Month. In regard to National Security, always be prepared to help your active military and their families. There are many aspects to VA&R, but the one thing that tugs at my heart is the unexpected deployment of our active military. It reminds me how fragile life can be, but to see the strength in those it affects directly is nothing short of amazing. They "Believe" in what needs to be done. They have my utmost respect!

Legislation is an ongoing feat. Pay attention to information circulated that has a direct effect on our Veterans. It is our duty, our mission, to advocate for them. When asked, write your congressmen to support the needs of our Veterans.

It's hard to "Believe" we are halfway through the year! But it makes me smile to see we are doing a great job at Getting New & Old Members Excited!

Have a great Holiday Season and Happy New Year!



David Fuller
SAL Detachment
Commander

★★★ SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER ★★★

Gentlemen, I am happy to report to you that we are on the same pace as last year as far as membership. This is a good sign because we advanced the curve from previous years, however, we would like to accelerate our membership efforts so that we can top 105% at an earlier date. If we can do that, we will be able to concentrate on a few other issues that we need to address so let's get out and reach our membership goals early.

One of the tools that each of the District and Detachment Vice Commanders use as well as all the Legion Family is your Squadron Contact Information Form. This form lets us all know who the officers are for each Squadron and how to contact them. This form should be filed by the Squadron Adjutant each year. If you need help filing this report, please contact any Detachment or District Officer and they will be happy to help you. Also look for help from your Post. The Post is your sponsor and they will also be willing to help and it is to their benefit to help. What you do reflects directly on your Post. Be an asset to them, help them, be stronger together.

Another very important form to file is the C.S.R. The Consolidated Squadron Report form is an accounting of what your Squadron has accomplished or what you

have been part of over the past year. The volunteer hours that you put into whatever event you do have a dollar amount attached to it. When the report is filed, the hours are converted to dollars and they are both reported to National. When National completes this report, it is then handed to Congress. Congress in turn sees what the SONS do for our Veterans as well as the full Legion Family. Four years ago, we had 52% of the Squadrons reporting, during the COVID years that amount fell to 20%. Last year we had 32% of the Squadrons report, the total value of those that reported was \$1,404,363. Just think what that number would be if every Squadron filed their report, over \$4,000,000. If all you do is hold a monthly meeting and 5 people are there that is 60 hours a year if the meeting only lasts an hour.

For the last year and a half, we have been offering training for any interested Squadrons. We will and have come to you and done the training that you have asked for. PLEASE contact us if you need help, we have a VERY dedicated group of Detachment and District Officers that are more than willing to help. Also, when you attend MidWinter, you will find training available for these forms and much more.

As we begin to enter our busy hunting and holiday seasons, please remember to be safe and I hope we see you all at MidWinter.



Julie Muhle
Department
Commander

★ DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ★

Greetings! I hope this article finds everyone doing well. In many of my travels, I am often asked, "How do we get younger members to sign up?" It isn't a secret. In fact, we have many Posts that are doing just that. How? First, they are reaching out to their members on a regular basis – Buddy Checks. Buddy Checks do more than just someone checking in to say hi. They show your members that you think about them. You could be the only person who checks on a member. Imagine the joy you bring to that member by asking how they are doing. Buddy Checks can also roll into the Be The One program.

The next things these Posts are doing are programs. Our programs have something for everyone! Younger Veterans often have younger children. We have a variety of scholarship oppor-

tunities. There is also oratorical, baseball, softball, Boys State, WALLECA, etc. Your Post can sponsor a baseball or softball team for a very reasonable price. You can talk to them about Camp American Legion where they can take their family for a get-away at no cost to them.

I had a member tell me once that he was asked by a potential recruit why he should join. He said he told that person so we can be 100% so we can go before Congress and the President. While he was right on both instances, a potentially new member doesn't get this nor do they probably care. When talking with potential new members, remember that people don't buy what you do, they buy why you do it. Be ready to explain your why. Why are you a member? Why should someone join your Post?

To learn more about our programs or download materials, go to www.legion.org/publications or wilegion.org/programs.



Randy Timms
State Secretary
American Legion
Riders Association

★★★★ LEGION RIDERS ★★★★★

LEGION RIDERS PROVIDE NUMEROUS SERVICES FOR POSTS

This is the Mission Statement for the American Legion Riders – "To participate in parades and other ceremonies that are in keeping with the aims and purposes of the American Legion. To promote motorcycle safety. To provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share the same interests. To use our association to promote and support the programs of the American Legion, the community and other motorcycle organizations".

A District made the decision to attend various County Committee meetings to introduce Post Commanders to the Riders. During several of those, we were surprised the Posts didn't realize how the Riders could help them and we're excited that new relationships are growing! Some of what we shared included providing funeral escorts with military flags, creating a static line for events (such as the Silent March), standing casket guard, the most obvious – parades, helping with meals/cooking/serving, assisting Posts with Color Guard duties, creating events at the Post to bring greater awareness – IE: Car & Bike Shows, and more.

Many of our members have enrolled in Accident Scene Management training to provide more immediate assistance when necessary. Some have included CPR training to further their skills. When doing a ride – like the "Back To Basics Tour" fundraising event for Camp American Legion, we utilize Road Guards that provide a superior level of safety to minimize issues of concern. And we make every effort to

include medical personnel to triage as needed.

The Riders LOVE to ride! No secret there, I'm sure. But what we love, even more, is to ride with a purpose. In the case of the Legion Riders, that purpose will focus on our Mission Statement. As an example, in just the past 10 days, I know of two Veterans who passed away just in my area. Legion Riders from multiple Districts came together to pay their respects and provide a motorized color guard escort from the funeral homes to the cemeteries. We were blessed to do it. The families were blessed to know people they'd never met, cared enough for their loved one, to attend and display the flag from their branch of service, paying tribute to their dedication to our country.

And, I'd be remiss if I didn't briefly mention the Back To Basics Tour! In July the Riders will once again take to the highways to accept donations for Camp American Legion. We have elected to dedicate all monies donated to the interior renovation of the Camps Recreation Building. This room is underutilized due to its worsening condition, and we'd love to see Veterans and their families enjoying the games and relaxation it will once again provide. We are in the process of finalizing the Posts we will visit and the routes we will take, so stayed tuned!

For more information about the Legion Riders, or to get more details about becoming a Rider, contact either: Ray "Godfather" Pasbrig, President, at rpasbrig3@wi.rr.com or at 262-853-4929, or, Randy "Music Man" Timms, Secretary, at rtimms@twc.com or at 262-441-1692.

**Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**