



BADGER



LEGIIONNAIRE

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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



The 2023 Midwinter Conference had the largest class schedule to date and was deemed a success by those in attendance. "Classes were very good," quoted one attendee.

Another attendee stated, "It was helpful having the classes repeat throughout the schedule." This afforded attendees to make up to 4 classes in the day, optimizing their experience at the Conference.

Saturday night was celebrated by all with the musical talents of Daddy Ds production. We were joined by National President Vickie Koutz, SAL National Vice Commander David Mennel and VFW Commander Michele Rathke.

"Big thank-you to all who worked so hard to make the Midwinter a success. Good Training and a wonderful program on Saturday night."

Congratulations to Chuck Augustine, Post 477, on winning the \$250 Legion Family Member Incentive drawn at Midwinter. Visit wilegion.org/membership-incentives to see the remaining membership incentives this year.

Join us next year in La Crosse January 17-21, 2024 for more learning and fun.



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“Wisconsin”

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

BADGER BOYS STATE

RECIPE FOR A GREAT BADGER BOYS STATE YEAR — 2023

By **Thomas A. Skrenes**

Combine 850 of Wisconsin’s finest high school rising seniors who are leaders now in their own schools and excited about their own futures, eager to learn and to grow.

Add 125 enthusiastic staff members who have been well trained in presenting this youth citizenship program, built on the love of country and our democratic system. Many of these staff members have worked at Boys State for decades. All are volunteers.

Place the program in June from the 11th to the 17th on the beautiful



campus of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Support it all by the generous financial contributions of hundreds of Legion Posts, community organizations and foundations as well as individuals who have made youth a priority.

Supervise this effort by a dedicat-

ed Director of Program and Board of Directors made up of Wisconsin Legionnaires and alumni of the Badger Boys State program.

Sprinkle in a lot of fun and encouraging growth experiences and serve to a world in need of the message of Boys State – “A week to change a lifetime!”

This is the 2023 session of Badger Boys State, a program of the American Legion that is preparing the next generation of leaders for our communities, state and nation. We are very excited and proud that this program began in the years before World War II and now in its 80th session of lift-

ing up young men, is giving these citizen leaders opportunities to grow their leadership skills.

What a privilege to be a part of this great youth work! Registration is now open for Boys State 2023. Find out how your Post or community group or you as an individual can be a part of this exciting program. Contact Badger Boys State Director Bill Cosh at billcosh@hotmail.com or call the American Legion Headquarters in Portage and speak with Sheri Hicks, Program Coordinator at 608-745-0341. You can be a part of our work! Your support will make a difference!

ORATORICAL COMPETITIONS CROWN WINNERS

AT RIGHT: Outagamie County held their High School Oratorical contest on January 16 at Post 38 Appleton. Mya Koffie (left), Appleton North High School, won first place, while Jerreth Geiger, Little Chute High School, earned second place.

BELOW LEFT: 2nd District Oratorical competition held at Mid-winter Conference. Pictured from left: Runner-up Haley Jo Hubert, sophomore at West Bend High School, sponsored by Post 36 in West Bend; Past Department Vice Commander Jim Lee (who emceed the competition); winner Kayla Dembiec, senior from Grafton High School, sponsored by Grafton Post 355; 2nd District Adjutant/Finance Officer and Post 288 Commander Dennis Jaeger. **BELOW RIGHT:** 2nd District Contestants with their parents and sponsor.



In District 10, 1st Place winner Zoe Stephanie, Barron County, was sponsored by Post 98, and 2nd Place winner Abigail Boone, Eau Claire County, was sponsored by Post 291. LEFT: Pictured left to right — President Margaret Larson; Oratorical Chairman Steve Isensee; Abigail Boone, Eau Claire County Contestant – 2nd Place, Zoe Stephanie, Barron County Contestant – 1st Place; Commander Larry Larson. **RIGHT:** Pictured left to right — District/Barron, Commander Larry Larson; Zoe Stephanie; Mark Mauer, escort from Post 98 Cumberland; and Jerry Townsend – District 10 Sgt-At-Arms and member of Post 98 Cumberland.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Scouting and the American Legion have been around since 1919 and have been working hand in hand as part of the Americanism program consisting of one of our Four Pillars. I have some information and requests to pass on to you today in my article.

Eagle Scout of the Year application submissions are due to Department Headquarters no later than March 1, 2023. Please make sure that they are filled out properly and that the Eagle Scout has met all of the requirements on the application. It is very important that the form is done correctly. I can not stress this enough as the selection committee has had to reject submissions in the past due to this fact. Time is of the essence so please get them to Department sooner than later.

The American Legion Square Knot Award: I heartily ask that you investigate this award as it is open to Adult Leaders within Scouting. The Department has presented these to deserving individuals in the past. Even though there is some hard work and dedication involved this is a very prestigious award. Here is a brief synopsis: This award is designed to recognize American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary



William Kaczmarek of Post 11 in Green Bay presented a Citizenship Award to Eagle Scouts for service in their community. Accepting the award from William Kaczmarek is Benjamin J. Brown of Troop 1236.

or Sons of The American Legion members who are actively involved in the Scouting program. This award is not meant to be a selective or limited award, but one that is available to any American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion member who

completes the requirements for the award. The award is meant to recognize dedication and work required by an American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion member to assist in furthering the Scouting program in The American Legion. More in-

formation is available at legion.org.

Camp American Legion Director Jim Klement and I have together promoted Scouting activities and projects at Camp American Legion and the Rainbow Flowage in the past couple of years, and we both want to keep it going. This coming Spring we will be asking for Scouts that like camping, fishing, canoeing and anything else Scouting to take full advantage of this great resource. Last year's Scouts earned numerous service hours which are now required to move up in rank in Scouting. They did this by helping out with cleanup at Camp and the Rainbow Flowage last Spring. Camp AL is in much need of this again. The clean up for the Rainbow Flowage is scheduled for the weekend of May 13. While at cleanup or anytime there are primitive campsites available for Scouts to do overnight camping, also free of charge. Camp Director Klement has let me know that he has a few Eagle Scout projects available for Scouts that need a project.

Scouting in general currently is in need of the American Legion Family to charter or co-charter Scout Packs or Troops in the Department of WI. If you are already doing so you

know the rewards you are getting from doing so. Due to the events in the recent past, charters have been turned in and Scouts have been left in limbo with nowhere to go. Please talk at your Posts, Units, or Squadrons to see if this is something you strongly would like to help with. This is almost a crisis right now. The boys and girls of today are our future and legacy of tomorrow and we all want them to be great leaders and great Americans.

Commander Muhle has given me an assignment. I am to gather a list of current Scout Packs and Troops within our Department to post on the Department website. I am asking the American Legion Family to email your information to me if you are sponsoring Scouts currently. Every year in February I get a list of Troops and Packs from National, but not the contact information. Please help me complete my assignment as it would be a great asset and tool to our program.

In closing thank you in advance for jumping on board with me and our Scouting program. If you have any questions, please contact me. My contact information is in the Department Directory.

Until next time always... Be Prepared.



POST 395 RENOVATION

On November 23, 2022, American Legion Post 395, Kingston gave Justin Klawitter a certificate of gratitude for the donation he and his employer gave to the post for a re-flooring project. The plaque was presented to Justin by Commander Thomas Medick. Pictured left to right: Irene Walker, Justin Klawitter, Beverly Meyers and Thomas Medick.

RIO MEMORIAL HONORS VETERANS OF VIETNAM WAR

A memorial in honor of deceased Vietnam Veterans Gerald Sandberg, Myron Missall, and Dale Wismar, and for Vietnam Veteran killed in action, Harlan Pache, was conducted on December 4, 2022, at the Rio Legion Post building. Pictured are spouse Sharon Wismar; spouse Judy Sandberg; Danene Pache, sister of Harlan Pache; spouse Bonnie Missall; Virginia Pache (seated), mother of Harlan Pache; Post Commander Terry Schraufnagel; President, Rio American Legion Auxiliary, Kathy Olson; and Chairperson Post Vietnam War Commemoration Partners Program, Dale Gajdosik. Sandberg, Langer, Missall, and Olson are Rio Legion Auxiliary members.



POST 110 ERECTS NEW MEMORIAL



In October of 2020 a committee of five members of American Legion Post 110 began planning for a Veterans Memorial in New Lisbon. It took off in a big way with the help of Dana White of La Crosse Monument Co. Together a plan was organized and a fundraising campaign began. Our 312 generous donors raised \$120,000 and the project was completed last spring. A dedication ceremony on Memorial Day 2022 was held to honor all New Lisbon area Veterans both living and deceased. Currently, 780 are listed and names will be added in the future. The New Lisbon Veterans Memorial Committee is comprised of Ron Lauden, Roy Granger, Mike Wilson, Neil Ulrich and John Gregar.



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

POST 288 'QUILTS OF THANKS'



"Quilts of Thanks" is a visible way to show the quilter's appreciation for the war-time service of men and women who serve in our military. The group's focus is on presenting quilts to area Veterans and active-duty military personnel. We encourage volunteers to identify recipients in their own families and communities. **AT LEFT: Bob Batty, Adjutant and Past Post 288 Commander with a Quilt of Thanks for his honorable Military service. AT RIGHT: This quilt was presented to Eugene Wagner, U.S. Navy Veteran.**

SCARLET GUARD TURNS 40

The Scarlet Guard American Legion Color Guard is a showcase color guard unit that represents the American Legion family of organizations, including the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion (SAL). The Scarlet Guard American Legion Color Guard's current roster includes members of these organizations from throughout northeast Wisconsin, some of whom are past and present leaders at the Post, County, District, and/or Department levels.

In 2022, the Scarlet Guard American Legion Color Guard was promoted to the annual lead color guard for the Wisconsin Veterans Day Parade in Milwaukee, WI, organized by the Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce.

Other roles of the Scarlet Guard American Legion Color Guard include presenting, posting, and/or retrieving the colors for high school, semi-pro, and professional sporting events, various meetings, conventions/conferences, municipal events, and more. In past years the Scarlet Guard American Legion Color Guard presented countless flag-etiquette programs for various youth organizations and schools. Since May 2020, the Scarlet Guard American Legion Color Guard has annually coordinated an open-to-the-public tour of five cemeteries in the city of Appleton, Wisconsin, on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. At each cemetery a memorial wreath is placed, a prayer or inspirational verse is recited, a rifle volley is performed, and "Taps" is played. This tour ensures that all U.S. military personnel who died while serving and who are laid to rest in every Appleton cemetery are annually honored and remembered. The Scarlet Guard American Legion Color Guard's coordination includes the rallying of members of other local Veteran service organizations to jointly fulfill this mission.

The Scarlet Guard American Legion Color Guard is devoted to being a positive representation of the American Legion family of organizations. The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, Veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. The American Legion is the nation's largest wartime Veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth



and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and ministering to fellow servicemembers and Veterans. The American Legion is the nation's most influential, effective, and dependable advocate of Veteran affairs, fighting for better active-duty pay, improved housing for active-duty families, and helping to ensure that the VA's medical system can properly care for Veterans.

The Scarlet Guard American Legion Color Guard meets quarterly at the Appleton American Legion Post 38 (3220 W. College Ave., in Appleton, WI 54914). Requests for the services of the Scarlet Guard American Legion Color Guard and/or membership information can be directed to Eric Stadler at 920.450.6907 or estadler@trustwv.com.

POST 288'S BELL-RINGING GRINCH



The Grinch was sighted ringing the bell for the Salvation Army and delving out a bit of good cheer, well wishes, and candy canes. The Peter Wollner Post 288 has been ringing the bell for the past 14 years.

ROOM HONORS MARJORIE Z. MARSHMAN

The Dane County Service Office Conference Room was named in honor of Marjorie Z. Marshman, Past Commander of Post 534 McFarland.



POST 215 PARDEVILLE PAYS IT FORWARD

Harry D. Jerred, Post 215, Pardeeville, WI paid it forward to Pardeeville Area Schools by paying \$2,270 for negative lunch balances for area families. Since this is the 1st year since COVID that the families had to start paying for their family lunches, many didn't/couldn't keep up with their cost. So, from September to December, many families fell behind. Members of Post 215 felt it was a great cause to help our community and the children of many, to pay it forward.

POST 435 GIFTS VETERAN QUILT OF HONOR



Del Kargas (right), Richard I. Bong Post 435's Past Commander presents a Quilt of Honor to Frank Abbott Dec. 10, 2022 for his service in the Navy during World War II. Mr. Abbott served for Three Years as a Gunners Mate Third Class where he served on Escort Carriers in the European and Pacific areas during the war. Frank will turn 99 years old in March 2023.



THE BUSY 'BER' MONTHS FOR WOMEN OF POST 539

The women Veterans of Madelyn LaCanne American Legion Post 539 in Green Bay were VERY busy during the “ber” months. In addition to donations of clothing and hygiene items to the Center for Veterans Issues, we were honored at Veterans Day events at local schools; presented as the organization of the game at UW-Green Bay Women’s basketball Military Appreciation Night; marched in the Green Bay Holiday parade; purchased, wrapped and delivered gifts for Operation Christmas Angel; participated in Wreaths Across America at King Veterans Cemetery and donated to Toys for Tots.



VETERANS TALK MILITARY LIFE WITH OCONOMOWOC STUDENTS



Shorehaven Retirement Community hosted a discussion panel with six American Legion members and students of the advanced placement U.S. History block "C" of the Oconomowoc High School. The students asked the Veterans questions ranging from basic training, military life, service during war times, to returning to civilian life. The Veterans took time to explain the hardships and the benefits of Military service. From left to right; Oconomowoc High School Students, John Koehn Post 91, Bob Ladwig Post 91, Jerry Wendt Commander Post 91, Jim Fulmer Post 399, Mac Dorn Post 91, and Bill Baum Post 91.

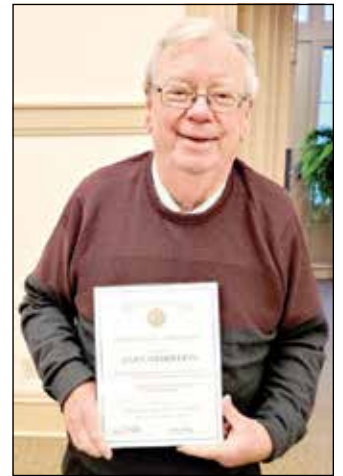
IN THE SPOTLIGHT

COUNTY YOUTH GOVERNMENT DAY HELD TWO DAYS IN VERNON COUNTY

The Vernon County Council of The American Legion recently held the County Youth Government Day for area students.

In fact, due to the large number of students participating, the event was held on 2 dates, November 9 and November 29. Over 160 students from 5 high schools, and 5 home school students, and their teachers witnessed court sessions and toured the County facilities to learn how local government functions. The students were treated to a pizza lunch supplied by The American Legion after which Judge Darcy Rood, District Attorney Tim Gaskell, and Sheriff John Spears spoke and answered questions from the attendees. American Legion officials also spoke on scholarship opportunities available to high school students who participated.

Gary Gilbertson was the organizer of the event and this year marked the 50th year he has coordinated all the activities. Gary



Gary Gilbertson with his award from Wisconsin American Legion Commander Julie Muhle.

was presented an award from Wisconsin American Legion Commander Julie Muhle in appreciation for his years of dedication to this program and the education of the youth in our area.

SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS VISIT POST 454



Santa and Mrs. Claus made a surprise visit at Abler/Engel Legion Post 454 in Mt. Calvary, WI earlier this month. As word spread that Santa arrived at Post 454, members assisted in making the visit a memorable experience for all the children who came. Santa, Mrs. Claus and helpers, also found time to visit the residents at Villa Loretta, an assisted living and nursing home in Mt. Calvary.



POST 395 DECORATES TREE FOR CHRISTMAS

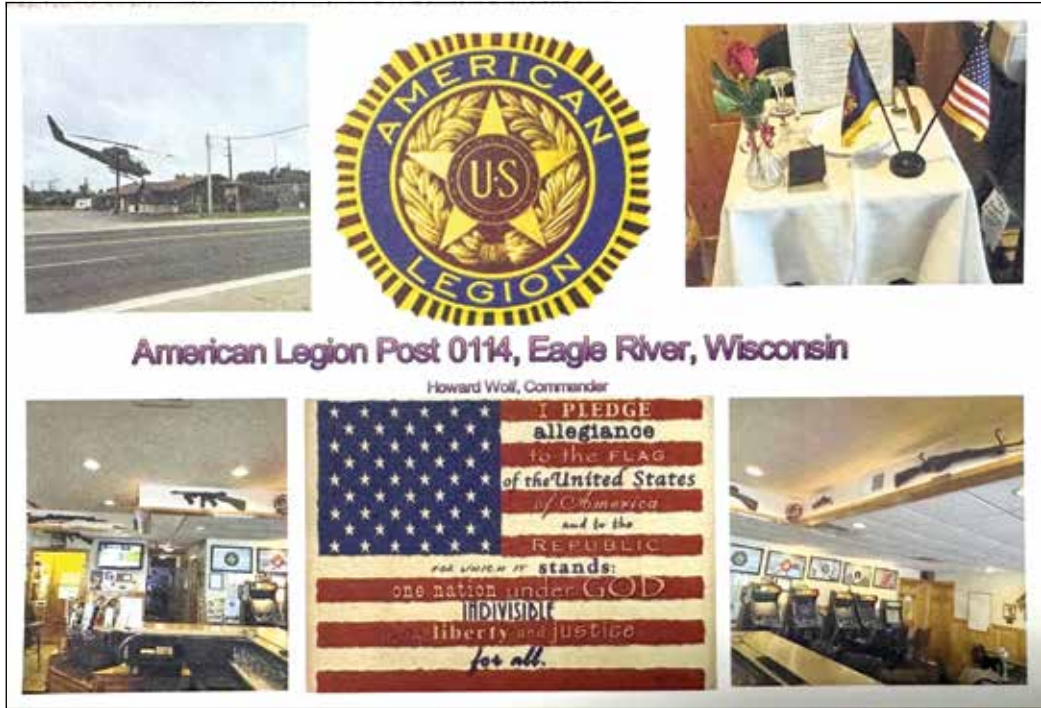
The tree in Doc Meyers Park that the “Friends of Kingston Community” put up in honor of the members of Post 395. Each ornament has the name of a member of Post 395.



NATIONAL 3RD PLACE YEARBOOK



Department State Commander Julie Muhle presented National Legion 3rd place yearbook award to Morris Sadicario of Post 501 Madison.



American Legion Post 0114, Eagle River, Wisconsin

Howard Wolf, Commander

POST 114 POSTCARD HELPS WITH COMMUNICATION

This postcard was developed to improve post communications and increase member attendance at meetings. It's also used as a reminder of upcoming activities. As a side note, the card has become a souvenir and keepsake for members and the community.

The American Legion and the VFW now share the same building. It's the one with the U.S. Army helicopter in front of the building, Hwy 70 West, Eagle River.

The lounge area now features a Fallen/Missing Soldier table, a challenge Coin display, a wall of honor and an Old Military rifle display. During Football season,

tailgate parties are also held. Folks bring various snacks and watch the game. Homemade Pizza available to take out or served in the lounge. Some say the lounge is like Cheers, everyone knows your name. It's like home.

The post provides Honor Guard Salutes at Veteran funerals, on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and is available as needed.

All area Veterans and the Public are invited to stop in and say hello. Your American Legion and VFW friends are waiting to meet you. See you soon, God bless America and our Veterans. Thank you for our freedom.



POST 32 SHOWS APPRECIATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Every January 9 is Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Hosford-Chase Post 32 of Menomonie decided that they want to let their local law enforcement officers know that The American Legion, and the Menomonie Veterans, appreciate everything that our officers do in keeping our communities safe. So, as a symbol of that gratitude, the Post delivered donuts to both the Menomonie Police Department and the Dunn County Sheriff's Department in Menomonie. The accepting officers were very appreciative of the gesture and for the donuts. TOP LEFT: L to R, Post Adj. John Miller, Deputy Sheriff Hunt, Legionnaire Tom Werner. BOTTOM LEFT: L to R, Post Adj. John Miller, Officer Curtis, Legionnaire Tom Werner.

NEW FLAGS FLY AT POST 239 VETERANS PARK

As we gather together to honor our men and women who have given their time and talents to defend America, I want to give thanks to the members of Post 239. Please note two additional flags at the Veterans Park. On the far left the "Space" flag now flies. In the age of missiles this new force is now in need. On the far right side the "Merchant Marine" flag now flies with the other flags of service. The men and women of the Merchant Marine sailed the Atlantic and Pacific waters and gave their lives to supply the military fighting in European and Pacific Wars. These boats were not armed and under constant peril from u-boats and Japanese submarines. These flags now fly because of Robert "Bob" and Vicki Knaup. They and they alone secured these flags

and everything needed to complete the job. Well done!!

Another member, no longer with us, Dennis Kersten, took charge to get the supply building along the rear of the Legion Building. He, Rocky Kauffman, Virginia Kauffman, Ray Faehling and I got the job done. The building is dedicated to the Memory of Dennis. He always was there, a good friend who always gave 150 percent to the job he had.

The Legion Building has been restained by Fran's Painting & Staining and it is a wonderful job done. I also thank the Tigerton Village Board for their approval to upgrade costs. I also want to thank Mike Tauferner for his maintaining the Legion Park grounds and for the advertising signs for various functions.



OCONOMOWOC COUPLE HAS 100 YEARS WITH THE LEGION

Edwin L. Jones American Legion Post 91, in Oconomowoc, gave out years of service awards to its members.

One of the most interesting awards went to Harry and Rose Snyder. Together they have over 100 years in the American Legion. They are truly a Legion Family. They have been married for 50 years. Both served in the Air Force, and Harry and Rose both retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Other notable members of Post 91 receiving the awards were: Robert Drenk 53 years, Emil Ewald 73 years, Don Kasten 50 years, Edward Martin 56 years, Ray Otto 53 years, Jim Pihringer 77 years, Ron Schwartz 50 years, Tom "Tomar" Strey 50 years, and Chuck Witte with 64 years. These 11 members have over 626 years of continuous membership in the American Legion.

SPARTA POST 100 CHRISTMAS BANQUET



Sparta Post 100 hosted a Christmas banquet.

UW-PLATTEVILLE DEDICATES VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville dedicated a Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2022. The memorial honors UW-Platteville students and alumni who were killed in action in the Vietnam War.

The memorial was the vision of Lt. Col. Mac Kolar, USMC Retired, Vietnam Veteran and 1969 graduate of UW-Platteville and Dr. James Lawton, a 1967 UW-Platteville graduate. Both had known UW-P Vietnam fallen and wanted their memories to live on.

A collaborative endeavor that spanned three years and included the help of faculty, staff and students identified 12 students and alumni killed in action. Research of military records, contact with next of kin and newspaper articles enabled Lt. Col. Kolar to produce biographies which were published

THE FOLLOWING ARE HONORED WITH THE MEMORIAL

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ronald R. Blohm-Army- Eau Claire, Wisconsin
 Sergeant Edwin F. Brown-Army-Beloit, Wisconsin
 Second Lieutenant Vasilios Demetris-Marine Corps-New York, New York
 Lance Corporal Daniel F. Gallagher-Marine Corps-Blanchardville, Wisconsin
 Specialist 4 John C. Imrie-Army-Lake Mills, Wisconsin
 Hospitalman Larry W. Knight-Navy-Stillman Valley, Illinois
 First Lieutenant Dean W. Krueger-Air Force-Reedsville, Wisconsin
 Specialist 4 Paul E. Mattson-Army-Lake Bluff, Illinois
 Corporal Frances T. Mulvey-Army-Fennimore, Wisconsin
 Specialist 4 Brian S. Perlewitz-Army-Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 Hospitalman Richard E. Sutherland-Navy-Dubuque, Iowa
 Private First Class Louis L. Zittergruen-Army-Monona, Iowa

in a booklet distributed to the nearly 300 who attended the event.

The names of the fallen UW-Platteville students and alumni appear on the bronze plaque on a granite stone memorial which is located at

the base of the flagpoles near the campus entrance. The Vietnam Veterans memorial compliments other Veterans memorials, to include WWI and WWII, on the UW-Platteville campus.

POST 91 ANNOUNCES 2023 RAFFLE WINNERS

Legion Post 91 is proud to report the winners of our 2023 raffle. All proceeds will go towards the Edwin L. Jones Post 91 charities. A HUGE THANK YOU to all the ticket buyers, without their support the mission could not be accomplished.

Grand prize winner is Terry Jackson of Oconomowoc.

2nd prize winner is Jeff Stevens of Racine.

3rd prize winner is Marta Humblet of Wausau American Legion.

4th prize winner is Dave Hermann of Sussex.

5th prize winner is Ruth Zastrow of Oconomowoc.

Learn How the Legionnaire Emergency Assistance Plus® (EA+®) Helps You Handle Travel Emergencies.

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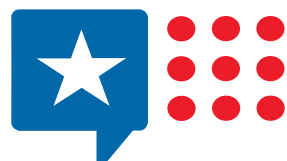
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Veterans Crisis Line

DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA ... AND GREEN LAKE



LEFT: Local WAA Coordinator Tonya Alling speaks about the Wreaths Across America mission to remember the fallen, honor those who serve and their families, and teach the next generation the value of freedom. **LEFT CENTER:** The familiar notes of “Taps” are played in loving memory and respect of those Veterans who have served our country. **RIGHT CENTER:** American Legion Commander Art Claggett of Green Lake’s Willis-Chapel Post 306 offers a salute during the playing of “Taps”. **RIGHT:** Mark Kramer, representing Havey Communications, proceeds to lay a Veteran’s wreath in memory of those who served and are serving in the United States Army. Live balsam fir wreaths symbolize our honor to those who have served and are serving in the armed forces.

Jim Johnson Candidate for Department Vice Commander

Legionnaires,

I would like to formally announce my candidacy for Vice Commander of The American Legion Department of Wisconsin.

My eligibility for membership in The American Legion stems from 10 years in the United States Marine Corps and 5 years in the Wisconsin Army National Guard Mighty 32nd MP Company with 18 months active duty.

I’m a 25-year member of The American Legion, serving in leadership roles as Post Commander, County Vice Commander, County Commander, District Vice Commander, and District Commander.

One of my most rewarding experiences is serving as the program director for the Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy. Serving on the National Americanism Council and the National Fitness and Wellness Taskforce has broadened my focus.

My education consists of the Wisconsin American Legion College, National American Legion College, FBI National Academy, National Sheriff’s Institute, and I hold a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science.

January 2, 2023 signifies my retirement as the elected Sheriff after 31 years in law enforcement. I provide instruction in criminal justice, stress management, community engagement, and leadership as an adjunct professor at Concordia University Wisconsin.

I’m truly blessed and appreciate to have served as District Commander these past two years.

As Veterans we make a difference when we put our Legion caps on, making a difference in the lives of Veterans and our community should energize us to continue to serve, I know it recharges me.

I’m running for Department Vice Commander because I know with



Jim Johnson
2nd District Commander

your support we can continue to enhance the lives of our Veterans and their families, inspire the next generation of Wisconsin leaders, and promote the principles of The American Legion in every community across the Badger State.

I ask for your support.

Thank you,

Jim Johnson, Commander
Second District

NEW MEMORIAL DEDICATED IN LUGERVILLE



On September 11, 2022 the American Legion Post 532 of Fifield was asked by Pam and Chuck Goebel to dedicate the new Veterans Memorial that they constructed on the lawn of their business, South Fork Bar & Grill in Lugerville, WI. That morning the Goebels, along with the help of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Post 50 in Phillips, held their third annual Honor Flight Breakfast. After breakfast, everyone went outside for the dedication of the new Veterans Memorial. A eulogy was also given for William Pippenger, a Lugerville Veteran who had recently passed. Pictured are: Chuck Goebel, owner; Ronald Edwardson, Fifield American Legion member; Pamela Goebel; and Legion members Mitch Surman of Fifield and Terry Haney of Butternut.

Aimee Korger Candidate for Department Sergeant-at-Arms

Hello Wisconsin American Legion family. Aimee Korger announces her candidacy for the office of Department Sergeant-at-Arms. Aimee proudly gained her eligibility to the American Legion by serving in the U.S. Air Force from 1999 to 2004.

Aimee has filled many different roles and at many different levels within the American Legion Family. She is currently serving as the Department Fundraising Chairman, she is serving as the current 2nd Vice Commander for the 10th District and serves as the Adjutant for her post. Aimee is active within the Legion Family by regularly attending her

Unit meetings the same night as her Post meetings. She has also served in the past as the 10th District American Legion Auxiliary President for a 3-year term.

Aimee is a member of Post #353 in Cornell, WI. Her husband and daughter are members of the Cornell Unit 353 and her son is a member of the Sons of the American Legion.

Aimee is looking forward to helping to ensure that ALL Department meetings and events run smoothly while filling the position as Department Sergeant-at-Arms. Aimee has the support of her Post Commander and District Commander to pursue the Department Sergeant-at-Arms



Aimee Korger
Department
Fundraising Chairman

role and hopes she has your support also. Thank you.



The newly constructed Veterans Memorial located on the front lawn of Pam & Chuck Goebel’s business, South Fork Bar & Grill in Lugerville, WI. Legacy bricks can be purchased in honor of any Veteran, living or deceased, to be placed around the outside of the monument.

AMVETS AUXILIARY HELP COLLECT DONATIONS FOR HONOR FLIGHT



On July 30, 2022 AMVETS Auxiliary President Dolores Gradinjan drove to Butternut to help The American Legion collect monetary donations for the Never Forgotten Honor Flight on October 3, 2022. An American Legion member from Butternut, Perry Reas, was going on that flight. Pictured are American Legion Post 272 Butternut member Len Cermak, American Legion Auxiliary Post 272 Butternut member Janet Morris and AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Post 50 President Dolores Gradinjan.

Show your support for

2023 ★ 2024

Daniel J. Seehafer

for
National Commander



It's Personal!

Veterans • Defense • Americanism • Youth



Dear family,

I wanted to give you a brief update on a few things before this new year gives way to August. As members gathered for the annual Midwinter, I kicked off my travels again as I went to California. I know, I know...not a bad gig. However, it was funny how some define cold over on the West Coast. I had one Legionnaire say, "Man, it's really cold out this morning," and it was only in the mid 50s. Blahahahahah!

Anyway, I really missed my WI family during Midwinter, but the Department of California warmly welcomed me! From there, I addressed the Pennsylvania family and was the main speaker for their annual homelessness awareness/fundraiser event. I closed the month with a midweek travel to Phoenix, Arizona and finished in North Dakota.

February won't slow down either, as I travel to Kansas, West Virginia, and will later head to North Carolina (where hopefully my election will be a success at the end of August). Then I will finish February travels with

Washington, D.C. Commander Troiola's testimonial and our congressional visits.

By the time you read this, I'll more than likely have more Departments schedule visits. However, I not only wanted to give you a glimpse of my travels as a candidate so far, but I really wanted to thank again our Districts, Counties, and Posts to the whole Legion Family for continuing with the support of your time, talents and treasures, so that one day I would have the honor and privilege of being your National Commander!

So, the countdown has begun! It's getting closer! And, yes, excitement is on the rise! However, this would have never happened without you!

Thank you Team Wisconsin!

Daniel J. Seehafer
Candidate for National Commander
Department Commander 2016-2017
National Chaplain 2010-2011



We never charge any youth organization, school, church group, or other organization working with youth for materials if they cannot afford them.

OUR MISSION

- To challenge our young people to actively pay attention to what's happening around them
- Tell an adult or safe person any bullying or things that cause concern for others
- To use and share the #988 Talk Lifeline if no adult is around for themselves, or another person of any age

•••• #BANDSONHANDS4HOPE ••••

WE BELIEVE

- Assigning a mission gives a person PURPOSE
- Having a safe, doable ACTION STEP to help can REDUCE internal emotional conflicts
- Taking ACTION provides HOPE to both the person they are helping, as well as themselves
- That a random act of kindness isn't just Kool, it's HEALING

The new website will be coming out soon. Anyone interested in having a team member come speak can email us at:
BTO4ouryouth@gmail.com

WWW.BTO4OURYOUTH.ORG

Daniel J. Seehafer — Candidate for National Commander

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

\$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: _____ CW #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Thank you for your support!



American Legion Post 258 is proud to support Dan Seehafer, who is running for National Commander for the American Legion in 2023–2024. On Saturday, November 12, members of Post 258 presented Dan Seehafer with a donation check for his campaign. Left to right: Deacon Dennis Bowman, Post Chaplin; Bill Olcott, 2nd Vice Commander; Daniel Seehafer; Gene Kobussen, Post Adjutant and Joe Wilharms, 1st Vice Commander.

POST 435 QUILT OF HONOR GIVEN TO VIETNAM VETERAN



Members of Post 435, Dennis Aho, Glen Erickson, Bob Patterson, Larry Yeazle (pictured with Quilt) Randy Freeman, and Butch Liebaet presented a Quilt of Honor Dec. 22, 2022. Larry served two tours in Vietnam with the 173th Air Borne Brigade as a 11 Bravo 2 Papa as an Infantry Mortar and Paratrooper. After his service he returned to Superior, Wis., married his wife, Sheri, and worked as a Letter Carrier for the United States Postal Service until he retired in 2014.



DONATION FOR MILWAUKEE HOMELESS VETERANS INITIATIVE

A donation of \$1,000 to the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative was presented to them for use during the holidays from ALRA 4/5 Districts. Left to right: Asst. Director John W. Edelblute IV, MHVI Exec. Director Debbie Buchanan, Road Captain Rob Preuss, Road Captain Guy Somann.



TOYS FOR THE 157TH

McFarland American Legion Post 534 raised over \$4K and hauled two truckloads of toys for Toys for Tots. Twelve care packages were also shipped out for the 157th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade who are deployed to the Horn of Africa.

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION . . .

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION IS OPEN FOR WINTER ACTIVITIES



Jim Klement
Camp American Legion Director

Winter is here! The snowmobile trails are open, people are driving on the lakes, ice fishing, and the plow and snowblowers are getting a workout.

Last year Camp, for the first time, was open for winter activities. We are open for groups to come up to Camp American Legion ice fishing, snowshoeing or any other winter sports. Wisconsin Hero Outdoors took advantage and brought 11 Veterans and staff to go ice fishing.

The first day of ice fishing was phenomenal. They used tip-ups, tip-downs and jigging poles and they just killed the northern and perch. They ended up with 34 northern and 12 perch that they fried up in a good old Wisconsin fish fry.

Camp American Legion is looking for other groups to come up and experience the great Northern Wisconsin winters. The same eligibility applies which is a Wisconsin resident and currently serving or honorably discharged Veteran.

Also, maple syrup season is fast approaching. Last year was a success and we are planning bigger for this spring. We will need some volunteers to help gather sap, keep the fire going on the evaporator and the finishing process of boiling and bottling. If you, your post or organization would like to help, please give us a call. We are accepting applications for the summer season, but please submit



an application soon as we are already at over 50%.

If your post would like to do something for Camp, how about adopt 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 to become involved in Camp American Legion. Thank You.



“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

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.

A BUSY VETERANS DAY FOR HONOR GUARD OF RIVER FALLS POST 121

The River Falls Post 121 Honor Guard was busy this Veterans Day as they provided Colors and Honors at the River Falls High School, Myer Middle School, five local Elementary Schools and the local Tattersall Distillery. Veterans Day is just one of many days that Post 121 members continue to provide community support and teach our youth the importance of our history and traditions.

TOP RIGHT: Post 121 Commander Missy Hildebrandt and The Post Honor Guard conduct a presentation at River Falls High School on Veterans Day 2022.

BOTTOM RIGHT: River Falls Post 121 Honor Guard stands tall for a group photo before a day of ceremonies at local schools on Veterans Day 2022.



Paul Fisk
Legislative
Chair

★★ LEGISLATIVE ★★ CHAIR

The legislature was sworn in on Tuesday, January 3. The organizational resolutions were adopted before adjournment for the day. Rep. Voss retained the Assembly Speakership. Sen. LeMahieu was reelected Senate Majority Leader. The Veterans committees of both houses have new leadership. Rep. Edming of Ladysmith is the new Assembly Chair while Sen. Testin leads the Senate Committee.

Bills are being circulated as various members look for co-sponsors for their ideas. Many of these are start overs from the last session. Among these are the UW MIA Identification and Recovery Program funding bill and the Disabled Veteran Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit Bill. These both have the support of the Governor. There are competing bills coming back to reduce the residency requirement for veterans and their families to further their education using in-state tuition and fees instead of the more expensive non-resident rates.

One of the new ideas being brought forward would provide grants to study spinal cord injuries. If new treatments are found to be effective it could change people's lives.

Each of you can track the work of the legislative committee. The committee has a page on the Department website. On this page there are several links to obtain the status of legislation we are working on. You can also examine documents we use to advocate for you.

POST 547 GIVES DONATION TO THE HIGHGROUND

Pete Kern accepting a \$2,500 donation to The Highground Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Building Project from Steve Christopherson, Abramowicz-Kacmarczyk-Cwikla American Legion Post 547 Commander. Back row from left to right, Dale Holbrook, member; Ted Compagnone, member; Frank Wilczek, Adjutant; and Marvin Wulff, Sergeant-at-Arms.



POST 117 LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR



2022 Shawano Post 117 Legionnaire of the Year Recipient Phillip Nelson (left) accepts his award from Post Commander Joseph Schwobe.

★★ VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER ★★



James Fialkowski
Department Veteran
Service Officer

VHA OPEN ENROLLMENT, CHANGES

TO DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC)

VHA open enrollment and delimiting date for certain Veterans – The VA is extending and expanding VA health care eligibility based on the PACT Act. We encourage you to apply, no matter your separation date. Your eligibility depends on your service history and other factors. I do want to point out that there is a group that has a deadline to take advantage of this expanded eligibility. There is a special enrollment period between October 1, 2022, and October 1, 2023, for Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War, or served in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998 and were discharged or released between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, and haven't enrolled in VA health care before. We encourage you to apply during this 1-year period. Enrollment is free, and your care may be free as well.

DIC benefits are generally payable to a surviving spouse, child, or parent of a Veteran whose death was

service-connected or if the Veteran's death occurred following a continuously rated totally disabling condition for the period required. DIC benefits are paid to an eligible surviving spouse as an individual who lived with the Veteran continuously from the date of marriage to the date of the Veteran's death and has not remarried since the death of the Veteran, except in certain circumstances. If an individual ceases to be a surviving spouse due to remarriage, DIC is generally discontinued effective the last date of the month prior to the remarriage. However, Congress created an exception to this rule with the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003, providing that remarriage after age 57 does not bar receipt of DIC to otherwise eligible surviving spouses. A little-known fact is this Act lowers this age to 55, effective January 5, 2021. Also, the DIC waiver to the Survivor Benefits Plan is finally gone.

The expansion of the VHA enrollment and DIC liberalizes the benefit criteria. Those impacted by the liberalizing change, are encouraged to apply for benefits. Please contact your CVSVO or our Service Office for assistance.

POST 36 DISPLAY AT WEST BEND LIBRARY



Each year American Legion Post 36 Service Officer Jim Maersch puts up displays at the West Bend Memorial Library: The Four Chaplains, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, POW/MIA Day and Christmas. From November 21 to December 16 patrons were encouraged to write a message on a provided Christmas card to express their appreciation and place it in the box. The cards were distributed to Veterans living in the West Bend area.



John D. Michels
Membership
Coordinator

★ MEMBERSHIP ★

WINTER VACATION

Man, am I looking forward to a little time off this winter. I am planning a trip to Green Bay in late January and am looking forward to seeing the sites and experiencing a bit of that Green Bay culture, some of its nightlife, perhaps some local skiing, and just kicking back.

On second thought, forget that. I pretty much did this at the Midwinter Conference. Or something like it. Yah, right. But I did put a lot of faces to names and experienced the legion conference culture. I just wish I could find my wallet. I had it with me at the bar when I went in for a drink with a couple of fellow Legionnaires. At least they said they were Legionnaires. Hmmm.

By this summer I should be an expert at this conference stuff. The key word is should. In the meantime, I want to thank all of you who pushed membership renewals right up until the 31st of December. I am also in charge of membership at Fox Lake Post #521, and it was a breeze contacting and talking HQ members into transferring to our post. Talk about low-hanging fruit.

I want to congratulate Exeland Post #475 for winning the 100% drawing. That post will be sending a representative on the Lincoln Pilgrimage to Springfield, IL the weekend of February 11-12. The excitement in the voice of its commander, James Woody, was inspiring as he plans to take his son who, in preparation for the trip, is reading up on this Lincoln fella.

Yes, we are in the new year, but those members who have not yet paid for 2023 are in what is referred to as "grace" status, so continue to contact these individuals and encourage them to renew. I have oodles of reminder postcards to mail out, and I am telling you, they work!

Again, I am here to serve your needs and help you in any way that I can. Call me at 608-745-0336. Also, I am at membership@wilegion.org. I am still waiting to have my picture on the back of a cereal box.

ORFORDVILLE CUP DONATION



The Wells, Davis, Young, Neal Post 209 family made a \$1,000 donation of sundries and personal products to the Orfordville CUP (Churches United for People). This donation from the American Legion, Auxiliary, SAL Squadron and Legion Riders Chapter, was received by Marge Harker to be distributed along with food baskets for the holidays. Pictured are Matt Socwell, Marge Harker, Kurt Stuvengen and Steve Champeny. Photo Credit: Auxiliary Member Fumiyo Stuvengen.



AMERICAN LEGION
BE THE ONE
I WANT YOU
to be a Legion Family member

Children & Youth Programs
Scholarship & Financial Aid
Veterans Legislation & Benefits
National Security & Protection of Our Flag

4 Pillars

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

★★★★ MEMBERSHIP ★★★★★

Just getting done with this year's Midwinter conference in Green Bay.

It was very successful and nice to see the attendees being so attentive and engaging. I have seen so much energy in the desire of this year's attendees wanting 2023 to be successful for their Post, District and the Department in achieving 100 plus percent.

We need to get our strategies and tactics in achieving our recruiting and retention goals to all our members and Post Officers to engage, embrace and execute! We want to go to the national convention in August to be seated in the "Front Row" with our Department Commander (Julie Muhle) and the new National Commander (Daniel J. Seehafer) from our very own great state of Wisconsin. In 2022 we were bleacher bums in the outfield, where we needed binoculars to see the stage.

Chet Faith did an awesome job with the myLegion class. The classes were standing room only. The attendees wanted to learn as much as they could about how the myLegion website was going to save their post time and money; and see the benefits in all its capabilities. We have progressed with technology-based membership applications, whether it's a renewal or new membership of a Legionnaire or Sons of Legion. We recognize we are all volunteers, not on a payroll. We encourage all Posts to enter the new generation in applying this technology. They will have more time to apply to membership recruiting... easy... easy...easy!

Chet and I tag teamed the myLegion class with a recruiting class. The classes were so engaging they ran lon-

ger than expected. Chet was a Navy recruiter in his other life; as I was an Air Force recruiter many moons ago. Together we shared some techniques we were taught and used while we were recruiters for our respective service in support of our great nation's national defense and security.

Recruiting is "selling". All recruiters need to know their product:

1. Know the history of your post and the American Legion.
 - a. Take the National's "basic course" online.
 - b. Enroll in the dynamic Wisconsin Legion College courses.
 - c. Study the CPR and understand the 4 Pillars
 - d. Communicate with your senior members of your Post to learn the history.
2. Network with first responders, civic and community organizations, as well as other Veteran service organizations to expand your pool of potential members.
3. Be seen in your community, wear your Legion attire with pride.
4. Be "Enthusiastic"!
5. Engage, Communicate, Educate and Perpetuate new leads.

Wisconsin Department is currently in 4th place on the National ranking, we are striving to be Number 1. I challenge each Post to get 1 over 100%. Congratulations to all the Posts that have achieved that milestone marker. Keep helping us achieve our goal, to be in the "Front Row!"

Joe Roberts
Department Membership Chair

HEY VETERANS!

Let us help you **SAVE 25%** a month on your **AT&T Unlimited Mobile Plan!**

From Legion Member to Legion Member
"I will come directly to your HOME or BUSINESS to assist you directly."

Call Rhett Boesen at 715-771-3535
Rhett.Boesen@Btussel.com



POST 496 MEMBERS ARE PART OF LEGION'S JIGSAW PUZZLE

American Legion Post 496 of Sherwood Gathers for Veterans Day. Helping display American Legion Post 496's membership puzzle at the Post's Veterans Day Dinner on November 12 is 104-year-old and 76-year Legion member Clarence Zahringer (center) along with Commander Jake Pompa (L) and Adjutant Don Voigt (R). The theme of the September issue of the Post newsletter stressed every Veteran, as a member of the Legion family, is an important part of The American Legion jigsaw picture. Each member is our strength and each represents a unique piece of our puzzle. When our strengths are combined, we make a whole body of Veterans from the Post level on up through the County, District and Department levels.



Every member of the Post received a puzzle piece and was asked to return it with their membership renewal, and at the annual Veterans Day dinner the puzzle would be assembled with hopes that we would have 100% renewal by Veterans Day.



James Bond
WDVA
Secretary-Designee

★★★★ **WDVA SECRETARY** ★★★★★

Greetings Legionnaires!

Pending Wisconsin Senate confirmation of my appointment by Governor Tony Evers, I am honored to serve as Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.

I am delighted I will be working alongside you as strong advocates for the hundreds of thousands of military

Veterans and families in our great state. Working with you, we will continue to serve our extended Veteran community by ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are met.

Over the coming months, I will be visiting all areas of the state to meet with Veteran service organizations such as the American Legion, County Veterans Service Officers, individual Veterans, families, and their supporters.

Having served in the Marine Corps, I know the commitment and sacrifice of service. With that, I firmly believe the primary mission of the WDVA is to always

deliver for our Veterans and their families.

Although I've hung up my uniform, my task for our Veterans remains firm. I've worked since 2010 at WDVA to ensure Veterans' benefits and services were timely and compassionately delivered to those who rightly earned them. I've found immense personal satisfaction in serving my fellow Veterans through my previous roles at DVA and I am humbled that I can make a larger impact for you as Secretary-designee.

Through my experiences, I've found that the most dynamic part of serving our extended Veteran community in Wisconsin is by working together as a team to accomplish our goals.

Veterans and their families contribute to their community in many important ways. When we collaborate on their behalf, we ensure they can always attain satisfying employment, receive their healthcare benefits, access educational opportunities, and enjoy a high quality of life in our great state of Wisconsin.



**2023
SPRING
CONFERENCES**

DISTRICT	DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT
1 ST	MAY 7 TH	HARTLAND	NATHAN BOND, 262-215-3481
2 ND	APRIL 29 TH	ALLENTON	JIM JOHNSON, 262-483-9531
3 RD	APRIL 22 ND	WAUNAKEE	JERRY HOOK, 608-228-4591
4 TH	MAY 17 TH	MILWAUKEE	LINDA PFEIFFER, 262-784-2807
5 TH	MAY 17 TH	MILWAUKEE	CRAIG ELLIS, 414-313-1357
6 TH	APRIL 30 TH	ST. NAZIANZ	GAIL MINKS, 920-475-5958
7 TH	APRIL 15 TH	COON VALLEY	ROGER MATHISON, 608-558-1503
8 TH	MAY 20 TH	BRINAMWOOD	ADAM KLAPPERICH, 715-498-0974
9 TH	APRIL 1 ST	APPLETON	DEBBIE THOMAS, 909-342-4028
10 TH	APRIL 29 TH	RIVER FALLS	LARRY LARSON, 715-410-7937
11 TH	APRIL 22 ND	LAKE TOMAHAWK	JOHN POLZIN, 715-965-2284
12 TH	MAY 6 TH	ST. CROIX FALLS	SCOTT MARKLE, 218-269-4675
DEPARTMENT	MAY 12-13	CAMP AMERICAN LEGION	ANGIE, 608-745-1090, EXT. 211

For more information go to www.wilegion.org and click on Events Calendar or contact your District Commander as listed above.



wilegion.org/legion-baseball

**2023
REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN**



wilegion.org/legion-softball

The Last Bugle



KEY

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

3 Antigo	29 Kewaunee	Jack Schulte V	189 Watertown	261 Greenbush	355 Grafton	454 Mt. Calvary
Michael Federman V	Reinhardt Hlinak K	David Gollon V	James Nowatzki K	Joe Weinbauer K	Eugene Proefrock K	James Smet V
Anton Novak K	David Conrad V	100 Sparta	Richard Shandor V	262 Luxemburg	Leroy Mueller K	455 Milwaukee
Milton Kolpack WWII	33 Neenah	Myron Schwarz K	Daniel Stark V	Don Prahl V	Donald Kenner V	Rozell Brown WWII
6 Stevens Point	Larry Peterson V	Alfred Bingenheimer WWII	Robert Kidrick V	263 New London	359 Gilman	469 Marathon
Wesley Spreada K	Clary Reinhardt K	Jeffrey Warthan V	Augie Tietz K	Robert Polaske K	John Ager V	Thomas Kraemer K
Alvin Zorn V	36 West Bend	106 Seymour	William Miller WWII	John Paters K	360 Waunakee	Leroy Knauf K
James Laska V	William Klimovech K	David Genke V	Val Stoda WWII	268 Bruce	Jim Kneifl K	470 Saukville
Jim Koehl V	James Haug V	Frank Lipp V	Thomas Ewing V	Robert McCarty PG	Thomas Stevens V	Anita Garcia K
8 Waukesha	38 Appleton	114 Eagle River	John Nielsen K	269 Cushing	John Gregorich K	Thomas Johnson V
James Oneil V	Harrison Sturgis K	Agendrew Heffner V	Martin Hancock K	272 Butternut	363 Denmark	475 Arpin
Ralph Nelson V	Richard Hoffman K	115 Elroy	Howard Randall K	Jerry Anderson K	Norman Knuth V	Louis Larson V
Allen Jamieson K	40 Bangor	Paul Feldmann V	Wayne Kling GWOT	Mark Schmidt V	367 Milton	478 St. Cloud
9 Wisconsin Rapids	Donald Althoff K	116 Coon Valley	Ellis Rudolph V	273 Grand Marsh	Glenn Getchel K	Joseph Krebsbach WWII
Buddy Kadlec K	41 Kaukauna	Ed Gorman WWII	Gordon Halverson V	Darrell Kurth K	368 Taylor-Hixton	483 Allenton
Harold Anderson K	Kenneth Micke V	120 West Allis	Richard Moniskey V	Lee Keslin K	Roger Stevens V	Richard Schellinger K
10 Wausau	Delmer Watson K	James Moscicki K	202 Chaseburg	277 Necedah	375 Mukwonago	486 Jackson
Charles Hessil K	42 Platteville	James Sokol WWII	Eugene Johnson V	Vincent Marchetti V	Frederick Petri V	Gerald Groth V
Ronald Petrowski V	John Fogel K	121 River Falls	204 Ellsworth	278 Balsam Lake	376 Fall Creek	487 Cable
11 Green Bay	43 Ripon	Henry Dreistadt K	Wilbur Caturia K	Douglas Borgerson V	Eugene Cesafsky V	Lawrence Lang V
Maynard Charniak K	Jerold Smith V	Richard Godden V	Donald Beebe K	280 Coleman	William Henke V	David Hanks K
James Engebretsen K	44 Wabeno	124 New Holstein	William Vanallen K	Leo Seefeldt WWII	385 Verona	488 New Berlin
Carlton Lewis K	Roy Schmidt V	Roger Wordell V	Laverne Frisque WWII	284 Holmen	Warren Sime K	Jerome Reinke V
Kenneth Kittelson WWII	Phillip Michlig V	Victor Schanke K	Dale Burkett V	Leroy Wannemuehler K	387 Franklin	489 Milwaukee
Gerald Lewis V	Bernard Iskowsch K	Kenneth Wenzel K	Elmer Krause V	286 Oostburg	Glenn Mueller V	Daniel Odonoghue WWII
12 Spooner	46 Merrill	Donald Kind WWII	Albert Funk K	Ralph Voskuil K	392 Cecil	494 Caledonia
Kenneth Fick WWII	William Kidder WWII	137 Turtle Lake	209 Orfordville	288 Cedarburg	John Sippel K	Jack Stegman K
13 Richland Center	Patrick Myers V	Gerald Peterson V	Larry Anderson V	Richard Engert K	400 Wauwatosa	Frederick Rosenbaum V
Robert Jones V	47 Portage	143 St. Croix Falls	Orlin Ellefson K	Ronald Vana K	John Nicholson V	495 Sussex
L. Stevenson V	Robert Bortz V	146 Beaver Dam	Dale Symons K	291 Augusta	John Bazille WWII	499 Gordon
15 Juneau	Kenneth Bortz V	Gene Rueckert V	Robert Obrien K	Steven Hoyme V	Raymond Teigen V	David Treviranus V
Ward Woltman WWII	Robert Thalacker K	Michael Breitweiser V	Gerald Quirk V	409 Lake Nebagamon	William Bach V	501 Madison
18 Milwaukee	William Schoon K	Terry Wille K	216 Lodi	Robert Smick WWII	Thomas Klein V	Richard Swangstu V
Frederick Thorpe V	48 Beloit	147 Medford	Thomas Ness V	Thomas Klein V	410 Fredonia	Bud Mautz K
19 Harford	Steven Ferg V	James Gehrig K	Rohderick Culp G/L	294 Hartland	Norman Jagow WWII	507 Mindoro
Jerome Bentfield V	Ernest Mignon V	Alvin Leintz V	Leroy Moskal WWII	Donald Engel K	Stanley Stec K	James Storandt V
21 Kenosha	Michael Stluka K	152 Menasha	218 Hayward	295 Bloomer	Marvin Weber WWII	516 Mason
Lawrence Bruce V	51 West Salem	Alvin Leintz V	Robert Danielson V	John Weber WWII	John Eberle WWII	Ron Troll V
25 Odanah	Richard Caulum K	155 Westby	William Groat PG	296 Brookfield	Thomas Hilden V	517 Dorchester
Gerald White K	Tom Ghelfi V	Marcellus Hagen V	Norman Krogan K	Robert Esqueda K	John Cemirys WWII	Robert Lindberg V
Raymond Maday V	52 La Crosse	Arnold Johnson WWII	225 Shell Lake	303 Winter	Edward Garchar K	Jerome Radlinger WWII
George Basley V	Paul Averill V	159 Cadott	Donn Paulin WWII	John Peterson V	Kenneth Ackermann WWII	Lyle Carlson V
26 Baraboo	John Givens V	Raymond Anderson V	230 De Pere	Randy Johnson PG	Harold Spitzer K	518 Green Bay
Norman Vlcek WWII	Robert Daley WWII	160 Brooklyn	Kenneth Gajeski K	306 Green Lake	Robert Lewandowski V	Richard Gomoluch V
Leo Alwin K	Ronald Seefeldt K	Robert Salvisberg K	232 Downing	William Doyle V	Lloyd Vandoske K	Glenn Teske V
Daniel Kritch WWII	Leonard Coombs WWII	Donald Doyle K	Robert Bartz WWII	310 Racine	420 Hustisford	520 Vesper
Gene Clingman V	Frank Lapean K	161 King	Earl Neuberger K	John Anderson WWII	Howard Schultz V	Joanne Lacoursiere PG
Charles Grosinske K	89 Minocqua	Robert Faux WWII	234 Omro	James Bergemann K	422 Highland	524 White Lake
27 South Milwaukee	Russell Jacobsen WWII	Merrold Prahl K	John Knapp V	316 Sheldon	Douglas Carter V	Carl Buettner WWII
Martin Cieslewicz K	Everett Anderson WWII	Allen Bieber K	238 Greenwood	Gregory West V	Robert Esqueda K	Robert Debauber G/L
	90 Ashland	John Manasterski K	Allen Hinker V	318 Lake Tomahawk	James Rechlitz K	526 Hazel Green
	David Wallace V	David Tank V	Danny Rossow V	Dennis Thimm V	Robert Beauchamp WWII	Paul Shellenberger PG
	93 Tomahawk	163 Dakota	239 Tigerton	James Zeise V	Edward Peterson K	534 McFarland
	Harold Pedersen WWII	Donald Semrow V	Duane Reed WWII	Stevan Wood V	John Poole V	Norman Strand V
	Joseph Kahle K	165 Two Rivers	Kevin Vraa K	324 Osseo	431 Three Lakes	537 Milwaukee
	Dale Fish V	Eugene Konzern V	243 Plymouth	Dale Olson WWII	Joseph Petreikis V	Leroy Nelson K
	95 Delavan	166 Fort Atkinson	Harold Ziegler WWII	329 Briggsville	433 Barneveld	539 Green Bay
	Ronald Surmac V	Kenneth Langhoff K	245 Cross Plains	Fred Marwig WWII	Carl Arneson K	Lois Mercado K
	Billy Hart K	Clifford Sorenson WWII	Paul Kalscheur K	332 Black Creek	434 Oak Creek	540 Haugen
	Benjamin Dunham K	Vern Stoker K	George Ball K	Ralph Sassman WWII	Robert Sirovina WWII	Edward Haughian V
	97 Dodgeville	171 Union Grove	250 Adams	336 Onalaska	435 Superior	555 Sheboygan
	John Godfrey V	Ronald Tichy V	Robert Giessel K	Leroy Carlson K	Leo Watnemoe V	Roger Hallingstad K
		172 North Freedom	Robert Taft V	337 Pulaski	Dale Monsaas V	2930 Portage
		Earl Helder K	251 Argyle	Gary Karcz V	427 Milwaukee	William Kusters V
		173 Chetek	Paul Dammen V	Jerome Santy V	John Poole V	Donald Strum V
		Dewayne Cummings K	253 Spring Green	Thomas Rodaks V	431 Three Lakes	Harley Janssen WWII
		180 Milwaukee	Arthur Baryenbruch K	Paul Reinhold K	Joseph Petreikis V	Delmar Berger K
		Robert Ringle V	254 Milltown	William Greening V	433 Barneveld	Richard Dean V
		181 Durand	Robert Blomgren K	347 Lomira	434 Oak Creek	Kenneth Grob K
		Lynn Wittig V	Junior Behling K	Leo Stephany K	Robert Sirovina WWII	Kenneth Pakulski V
		187 Wisconsin Dells	Phillip Benoit V	James Ziegler K	435 Superior	Donald McConnell K
		Bradley Davis V	260 Deerfield	Eldon Aspenson V	Dale Monsaas V	Daniel Christensen K
			James Strand K	350 Reedsburg	Donald Hodgson K	Michael Tschudi V
				Eldon Aspenson V	438 Norwalk	Albert Stefani P
				353 Cornell	Ronald Schulz V	Charles Bunker G/L
				Bill Larue K	440 Clinton	George Borchardt K
					Steven Larson V	Santo Sandona K
					449 Brookfield	
					Vincent Loduca V	
					Dennis Bohach K	
					Arthur Keup WWII	
					Jerald Vreeland K	
					Tommy Tradewell V	
					Edmund Fleming WWII	



MEMBERSHIP

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

GNOMES INVADE GREEN BAY! It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Midwinter Conference in Green Bay. It was so nice to talk and visit with the entire Legion family. Thank you for your participation. Our Auxiliary sessions had good attendance – so good that we didn't get to all the questions – please contact the membership team directly for those answers. Share your successes and great ideas with us also. The best part of Midwinter is hearing all the extraordinary accomplishments being done by our members working together with their units, counties and districts. You are making a difference. Be the One!

Keep up the great work – 391 new members have been recruited so far this year! Many, many units are above the national average for membership percentage. Congratulations! I don't have a count of rejoins but hear many stories of members coming back to our organization. Continue to make all



members feel welcomed and valued. Listen as they share fresh ways of looking at things and bring energy and excitement. The projects you are working on are amazing and are the catalyst for new and old members to

get excited and makes them want to be part of our family. Focus on our mission and vision – and remember – each one of us is part of our mission and vision and helping each other, supporting each other, and welcoming

each other is fulfilling our mission. We are all part of a Veteran's or service member's family and community.

Some reminders – send in your renewals, rejoins and recruits on a regular basis. Contact your unit members on a regular basis. Check your address list for any corrections and updates. Don't forget to send in those address changes for our snowbirds – they need to be kept in touch with and receive communications on a regular basis.

Did you know – your membership card is your entry into Legion family functions everywhere? When traveling, stop by and visit other Posts, Units and Squadrons to find new approaches and lend your support. What a great way to meet great people and have fun.

Membership is the key to opening the door to new adventures and meeting new people. Hold open that door – swing it wide open – as you invite others to be part of this journey to making a difference in someone's life. All of us have a role to play in continuing to support our Veterans, military, their (our) families and communities. BELIEVE you can make a difference! BELIEVE you are the one! Get excited and let's go!

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY BADGER



Girls*

STATE

HELP WANTED!

ALA Badger Girls State Counselors & Nurses

Sunday, June 18 – Friday, June 23

UW-Oshkosh Campus

Counselors and nurses are still needed!

If you can volunteer the whole week or just a couple days,
please submit an application

(www.alabgs.org/alabgs-volunteer-info)

or contact ALABGS Chairman Dany Thompson

for more information at alabgs.chairman@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: ALA UNIT 469

ALA Unit 469 in Marathon City is honored to recognize two members of their Unit: Margaret Shidell (right), age 102 and her younger sister, Norma Socha (left), age 100. Margaret has been a member of the Auxiliary for 32 years and Norma for 59 years. Margaret's husband Joseph and Norma's husband Leo both served during World War II. They are proud Americans that understand the sacrifice of freedom and the building of camaraderie.

Both women have been matriarchs to the Auxiliary and their community and have a long history of goodwill. They are compassionate, faithful, ambitious, and loving women who put others first. Auxiliary members know them best as the Unit Poppy Chairpersons. For years they organized the unit's poppy distributions. Upon the completion of the shift or shifts, the sisters invited the volunteers into their home to tally the collections. Their hospitality included coffee, homemade baked goods, and great conversations. The love they have for others, the community, and country radiated through. They make others feel important, appreciated, and proud to be part of the Auxiliary.

The members of ALA Unit 469 are blessed to know Margaret and Norma and are grateful for their inspiration.

*Story submitted by Betty Blume,
Unit Vice President.*



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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

WHAT IS YOUR CALLING?

Whatever our gifts, education or backgrounds, our calling is to do God's work here on earth. Showing a smile, putting out a helping hand or words of God's love for His people. Pray and be thankful for each and every day. As we walk onward knowing we fall short of God's love, we compare ourselves to other earthly beings. The Lord says you are forgiven and miracles happen every day. Thrust yourself into God's plans for the world which are beyond our ability to comprehend or accomplish on our own. Plead with the Lord, "Use me and give me the understanding to do your will." And be thankful for all the grace we have received from Him. AMEN

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Philippians 4:6)

We are in the middle of winter and soon the Easter season will be here. We will also be ordering seeds for our gardens and praying to have an enormous harvest. Please reach out to those members who haven't been attending meetings and get them excited about our programs again. Please continue your commitment to our Veterans through wonderful acts of kindness. AMEN

WANTED: A Member for the Department Finance Committee



Per Department Bylaws, any member with appropriate experience may serve on the **Department Finance Committee**. Each year, the Department Vice Presidents will appoint one member from qualified applicants to serve for a three-year term.

Candidates should submit a resume highlighting their skills in accounting, finance, budgeting, auditing or other relevant experience by **April 15, 2023** to deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org.

Upon receipt of all resumes, candidates will be scheduled for a telephone interview with the appointment committee.

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

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

Can you believe it is February already?!? What happened to 2022? I hope everyone had a good holiday season and are having a safe Wisconsin winter.

National President Vickie Koutz made her official visit to Wisconsin at The American Legion's Midwinter Conference in Green Bay. During her visit, the ALA held a Parade of Checks to support her special project – supporting companions of Veterans selected to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. "Sometimes, companions can't afford to pay for a meal plan," she said. "This broke my heart. The one person who is a constant in the Veteran's life couldn't stay with them during meals." Vickie's project for companions is triple tiered — money for a meal plan, travel, and/or a separate hotel room if needed for non-family member companions. Through the generosity of Wisconsin's members and units, the Parade of Checks raised

\$2,820.00!!! Thank you to everyone who participated.

The national organization mailed final dues renewal notices on February 1. If you received a notice but think your dues were paid, please verify with your Unit Membership Chairman that your payment was transmitted to department headquarters. Members who have not paid their 2023 dues are now delinquent and lost all benefits of membership – including the right to hold office, vote on unit matters, qualify for financial assistance through the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, have an American Legion Auxiliary memorial service or grave marker, or bowl in the annual 9-pin tap bowling tournament (oh no!!!). Members may reinstate their membership by paying their dues to their unit, department headquarters, by phone (National HQ: 317-569-4570), or online at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

Unit presidents are reminded to submit Unit Year-End Reports by April 15. Members should report their activities to their unit president by April 1 so they can be included in the unit report. New this year is the Unit Narrative Summary Sheet. Units should mark the programs they worked during the past year and

submit a detailed Program Narrative Report for those programs only. If a unit did not participate in any Auxiliary programs, simply mark "no" for each program and return the summary sheet. This information is used by the department chairmen in their annual reports to the national organization. The Unit Impact Report is a numeric report that details direct support to our Veterans, the military, and their families and is presented to Congress to prove the value of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Mark your calendars! Department Convention will be held at the Central Wisconsin Convention & Expo Center in Rothschild (Wausau area) from July 20-23, 2023.

Per Department Bylaws, the American Legion Auxiliary will NOT be holding district caucuses at convention. Therefore, alternates for National Convention should be nominated at the district level – possibly at their spring conference or by executive action. Anyone who would like to attend National Convention in Charlotte, NC from August 26-31, should contact their District President and ask to be nominated as an alternate. Names of nominees must be submitted to Department no later than July 1.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT VICKIE KOUTZ VISITS WISCONSIN



National President Vickie Koutz (center) conducted her official visit during The American Legion's Midwinter Conference. She is pictured with Department President Linda Coppock and Membership Chairman Becky Mueller at the Auxiliary's membership information table.



President Vickie also enjoyed a brief visit to Lambeau Field where she was overwhelmed by the popularity of the famous Wisconsin Cheesehead!

CANDIDATES FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICE

Candidates for Department office must email their announcement (300-350 words) with a head/shoulder photo to **Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bonnie Dorniak** (deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org) by **Monday, March 20, 2023** for publication in the *Wisconsin*.

Department Standing Rule: Any member may run for any office as a right of membership. While each experience as an officer or chairman helps to prepare the member for higher office, members have the right to pursue any office that is personally fulfilling without obligation to seek other offices.

SAVE THE DATE!

DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCES

1st District	May 6, 2023
2nd District	April 29, 2023
3rd District	April 22, 2023
4th District	May 13, 2023
5th District	No Info
6th District	April 29, 2023
7th District	No Info
8th District	April 22, 2023
9th District	April 1, 2023
10th District	April 29, 2023
11th District	No Info
12th District	No Info

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

**Lindsay Stiff
Honorary Department Junior President**

Are you wondering who the current Honorary Department Junior President is? Let me introduce myself! My name is Lindsay Stiff, from Berens Scribner Unit 6 in Stevens Point. I am in 7th grade, and I have been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary since I was born.

One of the reasons I like being a member of the ALA is that I like helping Veterans and their families. My favorite event to help with is my unit's annual fundraiser, Bowling for Veterans. I have also served as Junior Poppy Princess and was even the Department Junior Poppy Princess several years ago.

My interests outside of the ALA include art and music, as well as competitive swimming and running. I serve on the Student Council at my junior high school, and I play percussion in my school band. I take musical Theater dance classes and will be in an upcoming performance of Mary Poppins.

For my special project this year, I would like to support the Veterans Creative Arts Festival and encourage Veterans to try art. I am



**Lindsay Stiff
Honorary Department Junior President**

currently planning a painting workshop in the spring to raise money to help Veterans participate in the Veterans Creative Arts Festival. We promise to get that information to units as soon as possible. I hope you can join us.

LEADERSHIP

**Joyce Endres
Dept. Chairman
ljendres@charter.net
608-221-1763**

"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." John C. Maxwell

I am a strong proponent of Strategic Planning that defines: **Where are we? Where are we going? How do we get there? How do we know we are there?**

Another strategic term is STAR (**Situation, Task, Action, Result**). STAR uses the same concepts but with different words. Whatever terms or method you use, please give it a try! Work with your Auxiliary and Legion as a family strategy toward success. BELIEVE it will open your eyes to new ways to lead effectively and engage members to support our mission, stakeholders and programs.

Situation / Where are we? Before a leader "knows the way," encourage input from members. As ideas are brought forth, keep asking "why?" WHY? To get to the root cause and rationale behind what we do and why we do it, to ensure all really understand forthcoming change. 'Why' gets us to the root cause of a potential problem/issue, status quo, or starts us thinking about new ways to define and improve what we do and implement creative ideas.

Be open to change. Give new ideas a chance to succeed. One idea combined with

another may be the answer. Life and the ALA constantly change, so the more open we are to thoughtful change the happier and successful we will be.

Task / Where are we going? Before a leader "goes the way," define action steps to get a new idea and ask your team where they want to go. Challenge the status quo.

Action / How are we going to get there? Before a leader "shows the way," define desired end-results (e.g. goals, benchmarks, accomplishments, etc.).

Results / How do we know we are there? Have you met the end results defined? If yes, you will see your hard work pay-off. If not, WHY? Redefine and start anew.

- A leader:
- Understands the ALA Constitution, By-laws and Standing Rules are governing documents, but can be challenged, if needed
 - Encourages involvement, input and does not make decisions alone
 - Uses teachable moments to mentor and inspire others
 - Keeps meetings interesting and short
 - Adds education or member involvement in planning, meetings and joint projects
 - Works with the American Legion Family to support WHY we joined the ALA

Strategic planning is important to leadership, because it raises awareness and gets input about unit functions and activities to effectively move the unit and its members in the same direction to reach agreed upon destinations. BELIEVE you will enjoy the experience!

MISSION IN ACTION



Cindy Giese, #154 VP/Wish Tree Coordinator, Jeff Frenette and Colin Severson.

MONDOVI LEGION FAMILY GRANTS CHRISTMAS WISHES

Mondovi Post 154 Legion and Auxiliary members and volunteers distributed gifts fulfilling wishes for children of families in need during the holidays. Hosted for more than sixty years, the Legion Family in Mondovi presented gifts donated by Buffalo County businesses, organizations and individuals to 79 children from 29 families for Christmas 2022. The Wish Tree is an amazing community-building event in the region each year!



GOT POPPIES?

The Poppy Shop still has a limited supply of poppies available. Place an order today while supplies last.

Poppy order form is available on the department website or by calling Linda Cason at HQ (608-745-0124).



**2023 GNOME ONE AWARD
New Member Award Entry Form**

Sign up a **NEW 2023 Senior or Junior Auxiliary** member and receive a GNOME pin. *Only one entry per recruiter.*

Entry forms must be received at Department **PRIOR** to May 26, 2023.

TAL and SAL members that recruit a **NEW 2023 AUXILIARY** member are also eligible.

Recruiter: _____ Unit # _____ District # _____

Recruiter's Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

NAME OF NEW 2023 MEMBER - Senior or Junior Auxiliary member

Transferring and rejoining members **DO NOT** count.

Entry forms must be received at Department **PRIOR** to May 26, 2023.

Submit this completed form to: American Legion Auxiliary
PO Box 140
Portage, WI 53901

Fax: 608-745-1947 / Email: alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

This form is available on the department website (www.amlegionauxwi.org).

AMERICANISM

Sue Hembrook
Department Chairman
 genesuehem@wi.rr.com
 262-945-9791

Let us all make a valiant effort to offer our children the wonderful opportunity to compete in the Americanism Essay Contest so they can show everyone their patriotism. The theme this year is "What does patriotism mean to you?" What an excellent way for our youth to be able to tell us what it means to them to be able to experience the freedoms allotted to them. Freedoms that were given by the valiant, courageous actions of many service men and women who are currently serving and our many Veterans that served years ago and are no longer with us.

It is increasingly difficult to get into our schools so be creative – talk to your neighbors, reach out to school boards, school administration, teachers, private schools, and home-schooled children in your communities. Children with special needs are also included and their disabilities need not stand in their way for they too have a voice. We

want our department to have entrants from every classification listed on the submission form.

Promote the "Star-Spangled Kids" program by having a unit or district patriotism program or trivia of our Constitution. Keep in mind the age of the children that would be addressed and invite the kiddos to your units to promote our "love of country." We can open our unit/post homes to such programs and therefore not disrupt the classrooms.

Support your local oratorical competitions and, if possible, attend the Department Oratorical. The participants would greatly appreciate your support. You will leave the competition with a renewed, energized respect for the young people of our land. They truly are dedicated to the ideals that our country has fought for.

If I can help you with any of the submission forms or you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please ensure that the submission forms are completed accurately and send me pictures of your post/unit Americanism activities so I can forward them to our National Headquarters.

MISSION IN ACTION



UNIT 401 PRESENTS YOUTH HERO AWARDS

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 401 presented Youth Hero Awards to students at Cambria-Friesland High School for saving their teacher's life. According to Business/Information Technology Teacher Lorri Arnce, she and the FBLA students were having a lunch meeting when she started choking on a piece of food. She knew she was in trouble when, despite several attempts, she was unable to cough and dislodge the food from her throat. When the students realized her distress, they each took immediate action – Keightlyn started the Heimlich

maneuver, Clara called 911, Sam went to the administrative office for additional assistance, and Taryn completed Heimlich thrusts until the food cleared the teacher's airway.

Ms. Arnce stated, "I commend each of the students who jumped to help. I am blessed to work in a wonderful community with students who are bright, thoughtful, and budding leaders."

The American Legion Auxiliary recognizes these heroic efforts and encourages other units to look for opportunities to present Good Deed and Youth Hero awards. Questions about this program should be directed to Children & Youth Chairman Mary Petrie at mmrtpetrie@charter.net.

CHIPPEWA FALLS VETERANS HOME

The Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls' Recreation Committee, Inc is in the later stages of raising more than \$233,000 to help pay for an outdoor courtyard for Veterans Home members and their families. The Committee will achieve this goal through the support of multiple Veterans organizations, including the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary.

Numerous American Legion and Auxiliary members, plus other Veterans service organizations, attended a special check presentation. The Veterans Home outdoor courtyard is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2023.



Department President Linda Coppock also presented a check for \$2,000 from ALA Wisconsin to Harry Bauer and Nancy Randen to purchase sound equipment for the new gazebo.



PDP Diane Weggen selected the Courtyard as her special project, with a personal goal of raising \$50,000. She surpassed this with a total donation of more than \$62,000, which included a \$10,000 grant from the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

"I want to thank the Department of WI American Legion Family members for donating to the Chippewa Veterans Home courtyard project. Once again proving that Veterans and their families continue to give of themselves to improve the quality of life for Veterans in need," said PDP Diane Weggen.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 1, 2023

The American Legion Auxiliary offers more than **\$25,000 in scholarships** at the state and national levels. Encourage eligible college students to apply for a scholarship today!
Applications are available on the department website.

Students must submit completed applications to a local unit by **March 1**. Unit presidents must review applications, sign and forward them to Education Chairman Sandra Garlie by **March 15**. Incomplete applications will be disqualified.

Questions?
 Please contact **Sandra Garlie**
 at sraegarlie@gmail.com.



AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST 2023 SUBMISSION FORM



Essay Title: "What does patriotism mean to you?"

Department: 1st place winning entry in each class will receive \$50 from Department and will be forwarded to Central Division for further competition. 2nd place winning entry in each class will receive \$25 from Department and 3rd thru 5th place winning entries in each class will receive \$10.

National: One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at www.ALForVeterans.org at the start of September.

Materials and Guidelines: The contest shall include six classes.

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level.

Essay Checklist:

- Class competing in _____
- Sponsoring ALA Unit _____
- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- Completed essay coversheet as first page of essay
- Word count of essay _____
- Due date for student to return to ALA Unit _____

To be completed by the Student/Parent (print clearly):

Student name: _____ Grade level: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Word Count: _____

School Name: _____

School city/state: _____

Teacher's name: _____

Teacher's signature: _____

Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered):

Sponsoring Unit City location & number: _____

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: _____

Unit Winner due to Department on April 1, 2023

Department: WI Signature of Department Chairman: _____

Send to: Sue Hembrook, 24215 60th Street, Salem WI 53138

Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by April 15, 2023

ALA DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

**2023 ALA-Wisconsin Department Convention
RESOLUTIONS INSTRUCTIONS**

A resolution is a main motion, offered as a resolution either because of its importance or because of its length or complexity. Resolutions for this reason should always be prepared in writing.

Resolutions usually are comprised of two parts, the preamble and the resolved clause(s). However, a preamble is not required for a resolution to be proper. The preamble explains the reasons for the motion, and each idea or reason therein begins with "Whereas." The "resolved" clause is the motion itself and should be written as a motion.

The Bylaws of ALA-Wisconsin (Article II, Section 1, subsection 4) require that:

a. Resolutions presented by an individual member must be approved by the Unit or District to which the member belongs. Resolutions must be received at Department by June 1. Copies of these resolutions shall be transmitted to Units not less than 30 days before Department Convention.

b. Any resolution not approved by a Unit or District, or when the district conference is held after June 1, must be approved by the appropriate Department Chair of the program to which the resolution pertains. The Department Chair will submit approved resolutions to the Resolutions Committee for consideration.

c. The Resolutions Committee will forward any approved resolutions with a financial impact to the Finance Committee for their approval.

Once the Resolutions Committee and other appropriate chairs/committees have acted on all resolutions, the Resolutions Chair will report recommendations to the convention delegates.

American Legion Auxiliary-Department of Wisconsin
2023 American Legion Auxiliary Convention

RESOLUTION

Submitted by:
Unit Name: _____ City _____ Unit # _____ Dist. # _____

Contact Name: _____ Phone # (____) _____

Subject: _____ Date: _____

Resolution # _____

Program: _____

Signature of UNIT President/Secretary: _____ Date: _____

Signature of DISTRICT President/Secretary: _____ Date: _____

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY:
Committee Chair Name & Signature

_____ Date: _____ Approved Rejected Revised

_____ Date: _____ Approved Rejected Revised

_____ Date: _____ Approved Rejected Revised

Convention Action: Approved Rejected Date: _____

EDUCATION

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

One of the main objectives of the ALA Education Program is to promote the many unit, department, and national scholarships that are available. Now is when many students are applying for scholarships, so it is a good time to follow up with schools to ensure they know these resources are available.

Here are a few things to remember:

- Deadlines:
 - March 1 – Student applications must be submitted to Units.
 - On or before March 15 – Units certify and forward applications to Department Education Chairman.
 - Scholarships cannot be accepted after deadlines.
- Unit Presidents/Chairmen: Verify the applications are complete and all required materials are included. Please be sure to sign the applications.
- Units may certify multiple applications for Department scholarships but can only certify one application for National scholarships. Applicants may apply for each scholarship for which they are eligible.
- Some department scholarships can be awarded to current college students or graduate students.
- Technical College students may also apply depending on scholarship rules.

Scholarship forms and other information are available on the department website at www.amlegionauxwi.org. For more information and frequently asked questions about national scholarships awarded by the ALA, visit www.alaforveterans.org/scholarships or contact me to obtain any of the needed documents. I look forward to receiving a great number of applications!

I would also like to remind units to apply for the Unit Education Awards. Award entries and year-end reports are due in May. I look forward to hearing from all of you!

Don't forget to make sure that you let your area teachers know how much we appreciate them. Teacher Appreciation week is May 8-12, 2023. I would love to hear and see what units do for the teachers throughout Wisconsin.

M. LOUISE WILSON EDUCATION LOAN FUND

Joan Chwala
Dept. Chairman
jychwala@gmail.com
715-668-5661

UNIQUE LOAN FUND PROGRAM MEETS WISCONSIN'S MISSION

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

Q. What makes this loan so unique?

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

Q. What are the requirements?

A. The applicant must be a current female member of the American Legion Auxiliary. She must submit a copy of the DD214 document for the veteran that made her eligible to belong. She must send a transcript of her high school grades. She must include three letters of recommendation. A responsible adult must co-sign the promissory note. She must be approved by the program chairman. (Most correspondence can be done through emails.)

Q. What is the amount of the loan?

A. If approved, the applicant can borrow up to \$800 per year for five years. One year from the date of the first loan, the applicant can get an additional \$800 by sending a copy of college grades and being a current member of the American Legion Auxiliary. If approved, she may continue to borrow until the amount reaches \$4,000 or she graduates from college or withdraws from full-time student status.

Q. Why do you ask for donations?

A. By donating, you and your unit ensure that future generations will be able to take advantage of this program. Your unit president has a copy of the donation sheets and it is on the Department website. Spread the word about the loans and the need for additional funding.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP



Diana Sirovina
Department Chairman

Bringing the Christmas Gift Shop to our Veterans takes time and preparation. October seemed a little early to be thinking of Christmas, but in order to reach out to the long-term care facilities where our Veterans reside, the dates on the calendar really didn't mean all that much. All that really mattered was that our wonderful Veterans were able to select Christmas gifts for their family members.

Once it was determined that we would not be able to personally visit the various facilities, we moved forward with planning for another year of working our program remotely. Hospital staff assisted us by taking orders and gifts were again shipped directly to the Veterans' families. This year we were pleased to see a good increase in the number of Veterans we reached, as well as the number of gifts selected.

A group of very dedicated and talented volunteers came together one rainy Sunday morning to take on the task of wrapping the 412 gifts the Veterans selected for their loved ones. Their enthusiasm was contagious, and the job was done in record time! The beautifully wrapped packages were packed into shipping boxes and were dropped at the post office that very same day. All the packages arrived at their destinations well before Christmas.

This program means so much to the Veterans in long-term care facilities. Over the past couple years, these Veterans spent many long and lonely hours without visits from loved ones and friends and were overjoyed when they heard that they would be able to choose gifts for their families again this year. It allowed them to feel connected to their loved ones and gave them something positive to focus on.

It is important to note here that this great program would not be possible without the generous support from units all across Wisconsin. Our Christmas Gift Shop program may only last a couple months each year, but your unit can make it a year-round project by sending in your donations, earmarked for Christmas Gift Shop, whenever you have funds available. Thank you for remembering our hospitalized Veterans and their families at Christmas!

**Wisconsin ALA State Bowling Association
Annual Tournament**

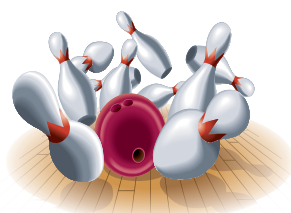
April 15 & 16

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

Singles/Doubles

Saturday, 11:00 am or 2:00 pm

Teams Sunday, 9:00 am



Entry forms due March 15

For more information, contact Tournament Director Jenni Syftestad (syftes@chorus.net)



Linda Coppock
Department
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello members, it's me again! If you did not have the opportunity to attend The American Legion Midwinter Conference this past January in Green Bay, you missed a great time – no snow, no sleet, no freezing rain or below zero weather to contend with!!! Not to mention you missed the visit of our ALA National President Vickie Koutz and the Central Division SAL National Vice Commander David Mennel. Two fantastic people working hard to bring awareness to the needs and benefits of our organizations as well as advocating for our Veterans, active military, their families, and our communities!

ALA NP Vickie had her first visit to Lambeau Field and enjoyed a great meal at 1919 Kitchen & Tap! She was amazed at the size of the Lombardi Trophy on display there. And all the Cheesehead hats – she didn't know which one to try on first!!!

Vickie enjoyed meeting the Wisconsin members in attendance and stayed to the very end of the banquet dinner/Luau celebration. You should have seen all the grass skirts and Hawaiian shirts! Ooo La La! Daddy D's provided the entertainment for the evening and NP Vickie was so impressed with them, she stayed until the end of their show. (I think she might want them to be the entertainment at her State's Dinner! Shhhh, mum's the word!)

My favorite part of her trip was the drive across the road to and from the airport. She laughed when we told her we were going "just across the road," and was shocked to see, we went "just across the road!" We had a good laugh.

Well, here we are, halfway through the year. Has the Department President visited your unit yet? If not, you better send her an invitation, time is running out! Really, I would love to come visit during a regular unit meeting and meet your unit members. But, before you know it, we will be hosting Spring Conferences!

February is Americanism month. What is your special project for Americanism? It is also the month to remember the Four Chaplains.

March is Community Service month. Do you have a special project to promote within your community? Also remember to help celebrate the birthday of The American Legion!

Congratulations to all the units that have worked so hard to get their units to 100% or more! You deserve a big Gnome Hug! I'll be sure to let Gnome Norm know he has a lot of hugging to do at convention.

I wonder what Mr. Groundhog has in store for us? Will he be as good at predicting membership goals as he is the weather? And will March greet us as a lion or a lamb? Will your unit be roaring for dues to be paid or bleating success? I guess we shall have to wait and see.



Randy Timms
State Secretary
American Legion
Riders Association

★★★★ LEGION RIDERS ★★★★★

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."

By now, most of our 718 members throughout Wisconsin are sitting at home watching weather reports and hoping next week will bring sunshine, dry roads and 70-degree weather! Unfortunately, we'll have to wait a bit for winter to release its grip on our State. But in the meantime, that hasn't deterred Legion Riders from its mission. Some are taking Accident Scene Management classes, some perhaps CPR, others are reading great maintenance tips on keeping their motorcycles in tip-top shape and insuring they'll be out at the first possibility. And, most importantly, some are actively involved in raising funds for Veterans through the many opportunities that come to our attention.

During 2022, although some Districts have yet to report their activities, I was able to provide the following information to the Department for inclusion in their Consolidated Reports. In volunteer hours, the Legion Riders dedicated 5,005 hours to various causes. In monetary donations, they raised \$95,493.00.

These are the men and women of the Legion Riders who have made a difference in the lives of many and continue to do so year after year. And I'd be remiss if I didn't add Iroc's Badger Run to these figures. Roughly 70 souls joined us for the 3-day ride, raising funds for The Highground. As I've reported before, we can add \$38,300.00 to funds raised and roughly 1680 hours of volunteer time.

I hope Riders use this down-time to get more involved in their Posts. It's a great time to attend membership meetings and spread the word about the impact Riders have on a total community. Perhaps meet with local officials and explain who we are and how we can help with public celebrations and activities. Maybe a safety meeting with high schoolers to keep them safe on their motorcycles? Maybe speaking with local civic organizations about joining with us for local Veterans events?

Maybe – we can all recruit riders to come with us during the July **Back To Basics Tour!**

I look forward to raising funds for Camp this year and pray we're able to provide enough funding for the completion of the Interior Renovation of the Recreation Building! And who knows, just maybe we'll raise enough to help with other projects too! Please consider joining us July 17-19, 2023. We'll end our ride at Department Convention in Wausau. What a great place to finish!

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.



Julie Muhle
Department
Commander

★ DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ★

We have just finished another successful Midwinter. For those who attended, it was difficult to find time in the day to fit the classes you wanted to take! Many of the classes were larger than expected and that is definitely a problem we are willing to have. I hope the classes were what were expected and you went away with newer knowledge and understandings. The Be The One walk was a success and can be found on the legion.org website as well as on YouTube and the Department Facebook page. I also hoped those who attended the luau had a great time. The band was amazing! So was the talent, kind of.

We now have six months under our belts for this membership year. I am very pleased with the progress we have made so far and the work everyone has done to make this year successful so far. Our membership continues to hover at 4th place amongst all Departments within the Legion. We have achieved the 80% goal for January and are working on the 85% goal for February. I ask that we don't end our Buddy checks now. In fact, Buddy checks become even more invaluable in the latter part of our membership year. Winter typically brings the doldrums of not being able to get out of the house due to cold, the holidays leave an empty place when everyone

returns home and can cause stress and depression. Making sure our members are doing well is what the Buddy checks and the Be The One program is all about. When our members feel as though we care about them all the time rather than the one time per year for dues, it makes a difference in membership.

Another thing I would like all of our members to remember is that The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin, and all districts, counties and posts within are businesses. It doesn't matter if you have a bar or restaurant. Each entity has money coming in and out, some have investments, all need to complete IRS 990s or other taxes, there are regulatory issues to follow and we negotiate contracts. As a business, we have responsibilities to our customers – our members, Veterans, their families and our communities. We need to run a good business to avoid bad publicity. Many times, people just don't know what they don't know. This is why we created classes and continue to teach our members – so we can bridge the knowledge gap.

Again, I want to thank everyone for the work they have done so far this year. I also want to thank those who have gone above and beyond by helping struggling posts succeed and by taking on leadership positions for the same purpose. It is starting to show and the winners are the Veterans, their families and the communities.



David Fuller
SAL Detachment
Commander

★★★★ SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER ★★★★★

Hello Gentlemen, I hope that you have survived the holidays and are doing well in the new year. Along with the new year comes membership, if you have not paid it at this time, you are no longer a member in good standing. If your membership has lapsed you are no longer able to officially be active in the Legion Riders through the Sons. You are going to renew anyway, so why not do it today? Your Squadron, District and Detachment Officers work very hard to get membership done every year, so help them out and let's get to 105% early. Last year we missed the National Award for membership by two days, we can't let that happen again. At this time the Detachment of Wisconsin is in first place in the Central Region and in seventh place for all 55 Detachments. Because of the hard work of the District and Detachment Officers we are experiencing record growth at the Detachment level with the prospects of 14 new Squadrons. I cannot begin to tell you how proud I am of these Officers for the effort that they put into this organization.

At this point we have exceeded the target point for January and are in first place in the Central Region and seventh place Nationally. Believe me the Sons of Wisconsin are being noticed for their efforts and they are talking about us.

It is also time to be putting together all of the numbers for what you have accomplished as a Squadron. All your fundraisers, meetings, community events and donations should be reported in your Consolidated Squadron Report. Many members don't realize that the combined report of all the Squadrons in the country ends up being shown to congress. These reports show the unity and strength of our Squadrons and that we matter. Last year we had 32 of 112 Squadrons file this report. That is NOT acceptable, we need the reports from ALL Squadrons. With only 32 reporting last year we still had an economic impact of \$1,404,363, if we had everyone reporting we could easily be over \$4,000,000; now that's a BIG number.

Be PROUD of who you are. Be PROUD of what you do. Be PROUD of the Wisconsin Sons of The American Legion, because I am PROUD of you.



**Veterans
Crisis Line**
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1