



# BADGER



# LEGIONNAIRE

& WISCONSIN VOL 100 #6 | DEC. 2023



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



## MIDWINTER 2024 – THE EVENT OF THE YEAR!

The 2024 Midwinter Conference will be held January 18-21, 2024 at the La Crosse Center, and is building up to be one of the best yet. Some exciting events leading into the conference are Freezin' for a Reason being held at Post 52 in La Crosse on Thursday and Friday, and Thursday afternoon join Legion Family members for a 2.2 mile walk to bring awareness to the need to support at-risk Veterans. The walk will go past Post 52 to support Freezin' for a Reason. Joining us for the weekend is National Commander Candidate Dan Wiley from Kansas.

■ Please see Page 4 for Schedule of Events for the 2024 Midwinter Conference, Page 5 for Midwinter Conference Registration Form.

Friday will kick off the business meetings. Come experience the work of The American

Legion, Department of Wisconsin. In the evening enjoy the many hospitality rooms put on by the 2024/2025 candidates for office. This is a great way to meet the future leaders of the Department and Legionnaires from all over the state.

Saturday is a full day of LEARNING. There are exciting opportunities for all Legion Family members at this year's Midwinter. Some of the class offerings are:

■ Peer Mentoring – The Department is partnering with the Medical College of Wisconsin to train Peer Mentors throughout Wisconsin's Legion Posts. This will create a contact person for Veterans in their area to help them find resources and not feel alone. You will learn about trauma, PTSD, Peer Mentoring, and Common Issues facing at-risk Veterans.

■ American Legion Programs Spotlight – Program Chairs will be giving overviews of their programs, along with displays and program information. At the completion of the presentations, there will be a panel Q&A

### Midwinter Housing

#### Radisson Hotel La Crosse

608-784-6680

Code: American Legion Midwinter Conference  
2-Night Minimum Stay

#### Courtyard by Marriott

608-782-1000

Code: American Legion Midwinter Conference

#### Holiday Inn & Suites

608-784-4444

Code: American Legion Conference 2024

For more information including up-to-date schedules, registrations, training brochure, housing and more go to <https://wilegion.org/midwinter>.

to answer all your questions on the programs.

#### ■ Back by Popular Demand:

- M-1 Garand Training
- Wisconsin Gaming Commission
- Post Commander, Post Adjutant, and County Commander Courses
- MyLegion.org
- Service Officer Training
- Generational Leadership
- How to start a Squadron
- Funeral Honors
- Auxiliary session

Saturday evening join Commander Karl for the Recruit the Next You Celebration. Come enjoy a buffet dinner and live music by LB & The HI-VOLTS. Sign up one of your new members (recruits) to attend the banquet and be eligible for prizes. All new members (recruits) will be recognized at the banquet.

Sunday join the Legion Family Chaplains for a Four Chaplains Service followed by the Department Executive Committee meeting.

Non Profit Org  
US POSTAGE  
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Janesville, WI  
Permit 2930

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

## FREEZIN' FOR A REASON

Raise awareness for Veteran Homelessness, funds for Legion Programs

Raffles,  
Silent Auction,  
More

**LA CROSSE POST 52**  
**JANUARY 18 & 19, 2024**  
(Thursday and Friday  
of Midwinter Conference)

Please call the Fundraising Committee  
**608-449-7188**  
to help plan, volunteer or donate.

Watch the website for details.  
<https://wilegion.org/midwinter>



“Badger Legionnaire”  
& “Wisconsin”

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“Badger Legionnaire”

**The American Legion,  
Department of Wisconsin**  
2930 American Legion Drive  
P.O. Box 388 • Portage, WI 53901  
Phone: 608-745-1090  
Email: badger@wilegion.org

Executive Editor  
**Sheri Hicks**

**2023-24 Department Officers**  
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**Karl Stuvengen**

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

Department Adjutant  
**Julie Muhle**

Department Chaplain  
**Virgil Smith**

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**Michelle Adams**

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

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

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**1st – Nathan Bond**  
**2nd – Charlie Young**  
**3rd – Jerry Hook**  
**4th – Steve Kohnke**  
**5th – Craig Ellis**  
**6th – Dave Steinert**  
**7th – Phil Green**  
**8th – Adam Klapperich**  
**9th – Debbie Thomas**  
**10th – Rita Rindahl**  
**11th – Gerry Johnson**  
**12th – Scott Markle**

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

“Wisconsin”

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

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

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

**BADGER BOYS STATE**

**ALWAYS WORK TO BE DONE: BBS IS 12 MONTHS A YEAR**

By Thomas A. Skrenes

This coming summer Bill Cosh will be participating in his 39th year on the staff of Badger Boys State. Attending BBS from Athens High School, Bill is currently Squadron Vice Commander for Post 481 in Madison. He is the very busy Director of Wisconsin’s Badger Boys State program. I sat down with him recently and we talked Boys State twelve months a year.

**Bill, what does the Boys State planning staff do in the “off-season” to prepare for Boys State?**

Bill Cosh will be held on the campus of UW-Eau Claire from June 9-15. For many of our volunteers Badger Boys State is a year-round endeavor. Our leadership team works 365 days a year preparing for that special week in June. Recruiting staff, training staff, evaluating our program for improvements, implementing ideas that we have picked up from other states, fundraising and grant writing, connecting with Legion Posts and school counselors across the state, and recruiting students are just a few of the tasks our team works on throughout the year. Sheri Hicks at Legion Headquarters handles thousands of calls each year from Legion Posts, school counselors, parents and students who want to go to Boys State. Our program would not be as successful as it is without Sheri’s incredible year-round work!

**What should every Legionnaire know about Boys State as we all prepare for Boys State 2024?**

Badger Boys State is a program of the Wisconsin American Legion. This is a partnership that we value



**Bill Cosh**

greatly. Badger Boys State is one of the largest Boys State programs in the country, and one of the best. We have an incredible volunteer staff of 142 people that is comprised of alumni of our program, Legionnaires, SAL members and members of the Legion Auxiliary.



We work hard to keep the costs of sponsoring students down and help to fundraise sponsorships for Legion Posts or high schools that cannot afford to sponsor a student. We can always use additional help. If you are interested in sponsoring a student please contact Sheri Hicks at Legion HQ at 608-745-1090.

**What are the biggest challenges facing Boys State?**

**Pahlow wins National Runner-up Samsung Scholarship**

Henry Pahlow from Maribel applied for the Samsung Scholarship when he was selected to attend Badger Boys State. He was chosen as the 2023 Samsung American Legion Scholarship National Finalist for Wisconsin.

Henry was then selected as one of ten National Runners-Up and received a \$5,000 scholarship.

Henry was selected by Badger Boys State staff to attend Boys Nation. The staff at Boys Nation were so impressed with Henry’s performance while at Boys Nation that he selected to return as a counselor at the 2024 Boys Nation. Boys Nation takes place at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia.



**Henry Pahlow**

Encouraging our schools to continue to send us their best and brightest students. Right now, we have about 325 high schools out of the state’s 513 high schools participate each year by sending a representative to Badger Boys State. When BBS was created in 1939 its goal was to have as many communities across the state represented through their participation in the program as possible.

It is also important that we continue to find ways of teaching citizenship and Americanism in a way that is inviting to students and parents. We believe that we are accomplishing this challenge. Today’s high school students have more options than ever when it comes to demands for their time each summer (state baseball tournaments, state FFA conference, trips abroad, band camp, choir camp, football camp, are just a few such examples).

**Bill, as you look ahead five years, what should Boys State be like in 2028?**

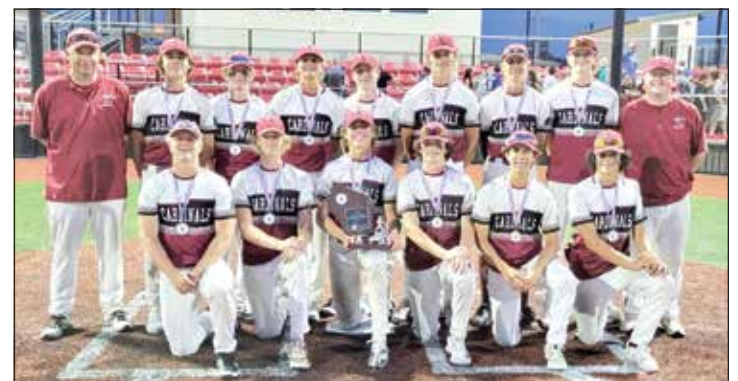
I believe that Badger Boys State 2028 will be even stronger and better than the program that we offer today. Our dedicated staff are continuously working to improve our program and to make it an even better experience for those who attend. One of the biggest projects we are currently working on is creating an option for students who want to receive up to three college credits for attending BBS.

After eighty years, we remain faithful to the original ideas and goals of our program from 1939. Young men continue to take seriously responsibilities to our Republic. We are honored to be able to work with some of our state’s best and brightest young leaders each summer. The future of Wisconsin and America is in the hands of some great future leaders!

**POST 245 LEGION BASEBALL**



Post 245 Cross Plains-Middleton honors their Legion Baseball team at their September monthly meeting. Guests of honor were some of the team players, parents and coaches, Roger Mathison - Department Americanism Legion Baseball Commissioner, and Jim Johnson - Department Vice Commander.



The MHS/Post 245 Legion Baseball team won the 17U Legion Region 6 Tournament Championship in the tournament held at Middleton HS Baseball facility, July 13-16. They then advanced to the American Legion 17U Wisconsin State Tournament July 21-25 at the Rapids Area Sports Complex in Wisconsin Rapids, WI. The team won Runner-Up at the 17U Legion Baseball State Tournament!



## POST 77 ORATORICAL CONTEST



The Post 77 Oratorical Contest was held on November 4. Jack Kasper (second from left) won first place. He was congratulated by (from left) Dave Oelkers, Post 77 Commander; DVC Harry Bauer; and Rick Vandermolen, Chippewa County Commander.

## POST 454 BADGER BOYS STATE



Abler/Engel Legion Post 454 Mt. Calvary, WI recently heard from St. Lawrence Seminary students Jonathan Predo and Cesar Gonzalez, who both were sponsored by Post 454 at this year's Badger Boys State. The program was held in June of this year.

## PORT WASHINGTON EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT



Wyatt Behrndt, a Life Scout member of Port Washington Troop 855, took on his greatest scouting adventure yet – his Eagle project! Wyatt created a Veterans Memorial at the Van Ells-Schanan American Legion Post 82 in Port Washington. This included a silhouette of each of the six branches, a branch service emblem, and a U.S. flag constructed of sheets of PVC. He worked on his project over the 2023 summer and completed his project Friday, November 3, 2023 – just in time for Veterans Day so it can be enjoyed. Stop by the Port Washington Post 82 to see in person and/or check out his progress photos on our website: <https://www.post82wi.org/eagle-scout-project>.

## N.N.O.K. RIDE – “NO VETERAN SHOULD TAKE THEIR FINAL JOURNEY ALONE”

This may be an uncomfortable subject for some, but it's very important and we hope you understand our need to tell this story.

1st District has embarked on a Wisconsin Department first. Each of our four Family units have come together for The Unclaimed Veteran Cremated Remains Taskforce. We have created a fundraising event to be held on June 1, 2024. Unclaimed Veteran Remains, or No Next Of Kin, falls under the VA&R pillar and although listed in the operating budget, has no annual funding. The Sons of the America Legion, The American Legion Riders, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the American Legion, have come together to support this very important program.

This American Legion, Department of Wisconsin Taskforce gets involved when a family gives up their right to their Veteran's remains, or when that Veteran remains are found abandoned or there is No Next Of Kin to claim the Veteran. This Taskforce will investigate the deceased military records, obtain the necessary documents and death certificate to determine eligibility to be buried at one of our state's Veteran cemeteries. Once eligible, the Taskforce will make the arrangements at the nearest cemetery for burial or interment and have the deceased cremated if necessary. Whatever funds that may be available to a Veteran's family for a traditional burial are not available to the Taskforce for the unclaimed Veteran.

Further, this American Legion, Department of Wisconsin Taskforce will assist in the burial of the Veteran's spouse if unclaimed or abandoned. The VA does not pay any expenses for a spouse.

As our tag line says, we feel strongly that no Veteran should take their final journey alone. When they are noti-

fied of a Veteran death with no next of kin, or it has been determined the person was a Veteran or the spouse of a Veteran, the Taskforce springs into action. They handle everything needed to ensure this person is committed with the appropriate military honors they deserve.

On June 1, we will be having a scavenger hunt. Registration will begin at 8 AM and close at 9:30 AM that day. At 10:30 AM we will provide participants with a sheet of questions that require answers! You will drive (motorcycle, car, truck, tractor, skateboard, bicycle, etc.) to the destinations as described throughout the District and record the answers. Upon return (and no later than 4:30) your answers will be verified and judged. Through our process, winners will be announced, and the top three winners will receive cash prizes. We intend to have basket raffles, food and activities for children so parents can enjoy the entire day. We will also award \$100 to the specific Legion family unit that registers the most participants.

Since participants can drive any vehicle they choose, this is a Rain or Shine event. Our headquarters for the day will be at Post 375 in Mukwonago. Join us at 627 E. Veterans Way and help support this wonderful program. Drivers of the vehicle will register for \$25, and passengers will register for \$10. Have as many passengers as you want!

We hope to see you there! If you cannot attend, please consider a donation to this wonderful cause. You can send your check to:

No Next Of Kin  
c/o Randy Timms  
2501 Michele Ln  
East Troy, WI 53120

## WALLECA ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2024

The Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy (WALLECA) application process for prospective cadets will be made available on January 2, 2024. The information about WALLECA will be emailed to all Wisconsin high schools prior to the opening of the application process.

The academy consists of 52 cadets who are current high school juniors and seniors. Deadline to apply is March 30, 2024. The application will be made available on The Wisconsin American Legion website, <https://wilegion.org/walleca>

The 2024 WALLECA will be held from July 29 – August 2, 2024 at the Wisconsin State Patrol Academy at Fort McCoy. The curriculum includes Fire Arms Training, Ethics, Crime Scene Investigation, Physical Readiness Testing, and much more. The classes are instructed by current and retired law enforcement professionals.

This academy is offered to students at no cost. The WALLECA program is funded by donations/sponsorships. If you or your post or another organization is interested in becoming a WALLECA sponsor, please contact Sheri at Legion Headquarters. Sponsorships are made through The Wisconsin American Legion Foundation, Inc. The Wisconsin American Legion Foundation, Inc. is organized as the charitable entity of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin. The Foundation is a 501(c) (3) charitable corporation under the Internal Revenue Service code.

Sponsors are recognized on the back of the cadet



uniform T-shirts and in the cadet manuals.

Checks can be made payable to:  
The Wisconsin American Legion Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 827  
2930 American Legion Drive  
Portage, WI 53901

The check needs to indicate that the donation is for WALLECA.

Questions regarding WALLECA can be forwarded to Sheri Hicks, Programs Coordinator, at [Sheri@wilegion.org](mailto:Sheri@wilegion.org) or by calling 608-745-1090.



# 2024 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**January 18-21**  
**La Crosse**  
**Center**



All schedules are subject to change. \* Indicates a change to previous versions.  
(R) = Radisson Hotel – 200 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse  
Riverside Hall = 4th Floor of the Convention Center

## Thursday, January 18, 2024

10:00 AM-5:00 PM	Legion Office	Riverside Meeting Room D
5:00 PM-7:00 PM	American Legion Foundation Meeting	Riverside Meeting Room C

## Friday, January 19, 2024

7:00 AM-6:00 PM	Legion Office	Riverside Meeting Room D
7:00 AM-6:00 PM	Registration	Riverside Hall
8:00 AM-5:00 PM	Exhibits	Riverside Hall
8:00-10:00 AM	Membership Committee	Riverside Ballroom A
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Fundraising Committee	Riverside Meeting Room B
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Legislative Committee	Riverside Meeting Room A
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Religious Emphasis Committee	Riverside Meeting Room E
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Convention & Activities Commission	Riverside Meeting Room F
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	WALLECA (Law Enforcement Academy)	Riverside Meeting Room C
11:30 AM-1:00 PM	Past Dept. Vice Commander Lunch	Iowa Room (R)
12:00 PM-1:00 PM	District Commander Lunch	Illinois Room (R)
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	VA&R Committee	Riverside Meeting Room C
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Americanism Committee	Riverside Ballroom A
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Internal Affairs Committee	Riverside Meeting Room E
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Finance Committee	Riverside Ballroom B
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Children & Youth Committee	Riverside Meeting Room G
2:00 PM-5:00 PM	SAL Committee Meetings	Minnesota AB (R)
3:00 PM-5:00 PM	Hospital Committee	Riverside Meeting Room A
3:00 PM-5:00 PM	Camp American Legion Committee	Riverside Meeting Room B
3:00 PM-5:00 PM	Marketing & Communications Committee	Riverside Ballroom A
3:00 PM-5:00 PM	National & Homeland Security Committee	Riverside Meeting Room F
3:00 PM-5:00 PM	Wisconsin Historian's Association	Riverside Meeting Room C
3:30 PM-4:30 PM	Dual Members Club Meeting	Riverside Meeting Room E
4:00 PM-7:00 PM	GNUTS Social Meeting	Riverside Ballroom C
5:30 PM-6:30 PM	Past Commanders Club Meeting	Riverside Meeting Room G

## Saturday, January 20, 2024

7:00 AM-6:00 PM	Legion Office	Riverside Meeting Room D
7:00 AM-3:00 PM	Registration	Riverside Hall
8:00 AM-5:00 PM	Exhibits	Riverside Hall
7:30 AM-8:30 AM	Past Department Commanders Breakfast	WI Room III (R)
8:00 AM-3:00 PM	Auxiliary Session	WI Room I&II (R)
8:00 AM-10:00 AM	Post Adjutant's Course	Riverside Ballroom A
8:00 AM-10:00 AM	Generational Leadership	Riverside Meeting Room F
8:00 AM-10:00 AM	Funeral Honors	Riverside Meeting Room A&B
8:00 AM-10:00 AM	AL Programs Spotlight and Q&A	Riverside Meeting Room E
8:00 AM-10:00 AM	Service Officer Training	Riverside Meeting Room C
10:00 AM-1:00 PM	Post Commanders Course	Riverside Ballroom A
10:15 AM-12:15 PM	Funeral Honors	Riverside Meeting Room A&B
10:15 AM-12:15 PM	Service Officer Training	Riverside Meeting Room C
10:15 AM-12:15 PM	Peer Mentor Course	Riverside Meeting Room G
10:15 AM-12:15 PM	AL Programs Spotlight and Q&A	Riverside Meeting Room E
12:00 PM-1:00 PM	National Appointment Luncheon	Iowa Room (R)
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	County Commanders Course	Riverside Ballroom A
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	MyLegion.org	Riverside Meeting Room A&B
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	M-1 Garand Training	Riverside Meeting Room F
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Wisconsin Gaming Commission Course	Riverside Meeting Room C
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Peer Mentor Course	Riverside Meeting Room G
3:00 PM-5:00 PM	SAL DEC	Minnesota A&B (R)
3:00 PM-5:00 PM	Wisconsin Gaming Commission Course	Riverside Meeting Room C
3:00 PM-5:00 PM	MyLegion.org	Riverside Meeting Room A&B
5:15 PM-6:00 PM	Catholic Church Services	Riverside Meeting Room G
5:15 PM-6:00 PM	Protestant Church Services	Riverside Meeting Room E
5:30 PM-11:00 PM	Recruit the Next You Celebration	Riverside Ballroom BC

## Sunday, January 21, 2024

7:00 AM-6:00 PM	Legion Office	Riverside Meeting Room D
8:00 AM-9:00 AM	Four Chaplains Service	Riverside Meeting Room AB
9:00 AM	Department Executive Committee	Riverside Ballroom A

### *Phil Green for Department Vice Commander*

7th District Commander Phil Green announces his candidacy for the high office of Department Vice Commander. I earned my eligibility for the American Legion by serving in the U.S. Navy from June 1972 and being honorably discharged in June 1976. I am a 46-year member of Sparta Post 100 having served as Commander, Adjutant, Post Finance Officer and Post Operations Officer. As Post Operations Officer, I oversaw the operations of our bar and banquet facility. I was one of the first members awarded an Honorary Life Membership from my Post. I have also served on various committees at the Post. I served as Monroe County Commander achieving 100% County membership. For the 7th District, I served as the 7th District Chaplin, Vice Commander and presently as Commander. I would appreciate



**Phil Green**  
**7th District Commander**

your vote for Department Vice Commander.

### *Deborah L. Thomas for Department Vice Commander*

My name is Deborah (Debbie) L. Thomas, presently the Noble Ninth District Commander, and I respectfully request your support in announcing my candidacy for the high office of Department Vice Commander.

My eligibility for The American Legion is from 24 years active duty service in the United States Air Force, 1972-1996. I am a 28-year member of The American Legion and 12 years as a PUFL.

I am a member of the Madelyn La-Canne Post 539 in Green Bay, one of two all-women American Legion Posts in the State of Wisconsin. I served as the Post Sgt-at-Arms for two years, Post Historian for four years and Post Adjutant from 2006-2019 and during this time, assisted in the Post attaining a 100% membership for the years, 2015-2019. I am also a longtime member of the Post Color Guard and serve as the Coordinator.



**Deborah L. Thomas**  
**9th District Commander**

I am a graduate of the Wisconsin American Legion College, completing the National Basic Training Course. Ad-

ditionally, I attended the Post and County Commander, and Adjutant Courses.

In the past I served as a volunteer docent at the Palm Springs Air Museum, CA; providing tours and description of aircraft on display. One of my most memorable projects was developing a program of the service of women during World War II, civilian and military. I am proud to volunteer at Unity Hospice and visit those Veterans under hospice care.

While on active duty status, I never really thought much about the future and how I would fit into the future outside of the military. Since my involvement with The American Legion, my vision has changed. I believe in assisting Veterans and in training the future leaders of the Legion. Not to share our knowledge is to stunt the growth of our organization.

It would be my greatest honor to serve as your Department Vice Commander and work for you.

*Jim Johnson for Department Commander*

Legionnaires,  
I'm seeking your support in my candidacy for Department Commander of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin. Working together we can continue to strengthen the Wisconsin American Legion and improve the lives of Veterans and their families.

As I have increased my travels throughout this great state, I have seen so many great things that Legionnaires and the Legion Family are doing.

It's evident that successful posts are engaged with Buddy Checks and the Be the One program touching Veterans lives, making their mission Personal.

If elected, my plan would be to continue to build upon the successes of our Past Department Commanders through a Strong and Committed American Legion. Department Commanders have asked us to make it personal, provide a positive impact, get back to the basics, and recruit the next you. Each of those messages asks us to provide strength through membership and commitment to The



**Jim Johnson**  
Vice Commander  
Department of Wisconsin

these Veterans see our service and commitment, they will want to join us.

Buddy Checks and Be the One encompasses who we are and should our personal mission.

I respectfully request your support in my candidacy for Department Commander.

Working together we are Legion Strong!

American Legion mission.

As Veterans we know what it means to serve, and we made the decision to continue to serve in The American Legion. We should reflect on that commitment to serve and use that commitment to provide strength to our organization. Our Legion strength is further derived from our individual Service, Commitment and Sacrifice.

Our strength is increased through community engagement. Working with the community provides visibility and becomes a platform for recruitment. Our community contains other Veterans, some of whom have not yet been blessed with membership in our great organization. The thought is, once

*Karl Stuvengen for Alternate NEC*

Department Commander Karl Stuvengen has announced his candidacy for the high office of Alternate National Executive Committeeman, and humbly asks for your support. He is a 33-year PUFL member of Wells-Davis-Neal Post 209, Orfordville.

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

Karl believes that the Legion experience he has gained over the years will enable him to help bring Wisconsin's voice and values to the National level. With the recent



**Karl Stuvengen**  
Department Commander

announcement by Alternate NEC Kostka that he will not run again, and at the urging of several Past Department Commanders, Karl believes that the time is right to seize this opportunity to continue working for Wisconsin Veterans. He wants to assure all Wisconsin Legionnaires that this campaign will in no way detract from his duties as your Department Commander. He will fulfill all his responsibilities as Department Commander to the best of his ability until the end of his term.

He served 21 years in the United States Navy, and retired as a Command Senior Chief Petty Officer (E-8). His assignments included service in the Western Pacific, Iraq and Kuwait.

Karl retired as the Orfordville Director of Public Works in 2019. He has the support of his wife, Debi, and their seven children and five grandchildren, all members of The American Legion Family.

**2024 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE**

JANUARY 18-21, 2024  
LA CROSSE CENTER  
300 HARBORVIEW PLAZA ~ LA CROSSE, WI 54601

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Pre-register for The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin 2024 Midwinter Conference by returning this registration form and \$25.00 per person (1 person per registration form) to Department Headquarters by January 2, 2024, and save **\$5.00!** Registrations received after January 2, 2024, will be \$30.00 per person. Or register online at [wilegion.org](http://wilegion.org).

*(Please type or print clearly in order for your badge to be printed correctly- List your name how you wish it to be printed on your badge)*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBER ID # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_ POST \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ SQUADRON \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	NO	PRICE	TOTAL
Registration Fee (only one per form)		\$25.00	
Reg. Fee After 1/2/24 (only one per form)		\$30.00	
Recruit the Next You Celebration Check here if you are a new recruit. <input type="checkbox"/>		\$40.00 <i>(RSVP By January 2, 2024)</i>	
Recruited by:			
Total Enclosed			

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

Cash  Check # \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Card Type \_\_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

*John Berg for Department Sergeant-at-Arms*

Current Department at Arms John Berg humbly requests your support for his candidacy for another term as Department Sergeant-at-Arms. Through the endorsement of his Legion Post 106 Seymour, Outagamie County, and the 9th District, John has been an active member of the American Legion for 13-plus years.

His eligibility was earned through 3 years of Active Duty in the United States Navy aboard the Aircraft Carrier USS America, CV66 from May 1979-May 1982. After his 3 years of Active Duty he reported to the Navel Reserve Center in Green Bay, WI. He served 21 and a half plus years Active Reserve time, which he was assigned to the (SEABEES) Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 25, which in turn he served with them from May 1982 until his Retirement in December 2002. His total service time was 23 years and 8 months.

After serving, John was employed at Carver Boat in Pulaski, WI from June 1982 to July 1985. He did customizing in 36-foot Cabin Cruisers. In July 1985, John ventured out on his own as a Flooring Contractor, also doing construction and handyman work until his retirement in October 2022.

John has been a member of The American Legion for 13 years, with Seymour Post 106. He became quite active after just his first year with the Post. He first started helping in the kitchen, and then was asked to be the Second Vice Commander, then he served as First Vice Commander, and was the Post Commander from June 2019 until June 2021. After his term as Commander, he was the Post Adjutant



**John Berg**  
Sergeant-at-Arms

2021 to 2023. He is currently the First Vice for the Post and will be Commander for the 2025-2027 years. The Post has a Sons Squadron in which he has been the Commander since it was formed eight years ago. He is on many Committees for the Post and the Sons Squadron.

John has also served as the 9th District Sergeant-at-Arms for the past 6 years and was asked to continue serving by the incoming 9th District Commander. He was Outagamie County Sergeant at Arms for four years.

Post 106 Seymour and Appleton Post 38 have a joint cabin (cabin 19) at camp. Over the past number of years, John has volunteered to go up and take care of some of the repairs inside and outside of cabin 19.

John has the support of his family. Married to his wife Diane for 38 years. They have three children, one son, Josh (Stffaney) Berg, and two daughters, Kelly (Nick) Clark and Desirae (Nathan) Konshak, one granddaughter (Kyleigh) and one grandson (Avery). Diane is retired/working part-time. John is retired, and looking forward to travel more with Diane, have more time to fish, he will be able to help support the ideas of The American Legion to keep it running strong and have more time to help out at Camp American Legion.

Thank you for your support and vote to his High Office. Thank you for all you do as Legion Members.

John will be sharing a hospitality room at the Midwinter and would like you to join us. See you there.





Share "In the Spotlight" stories with the Legion Family by sending them to [badger@wilegion.org](mailto: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: Sheri

## MARSHALL POST 279 QUILTS OF VALOR



Karen Demaree from Quilts of Valor presented these quilts to Veterans of Post 279 in Marshall on Sept. 21, 2023. Left to right John Annen, Robert Zickert, Shane Brozowski, James Olson, Karen Demaree, Donald Riggs, Marlin Hensler, Steve Roberts.

## POST 473 QUILTS POST 274 QUILT OF VALOR



Potosi American Legion Post 473 recognizes two of our Veterans with a Quilt of Valor to honor their dedication and service. Bill Hohmann served in the Korean War and Sam Hoffman in the Persian Gulf War.



Raymond Strobach, a Vietnam War Veteran and a 40-year Legion member of Lehman-Clendenning Post 274 in Rib Lake, was presented a patriotic quilt representing his service to our country. Members of the Rib Lake Quilters presented and wrapped Mr. Strobach in this handmade quilt at a ceremony during Post 274's monthly meeting. The Rib Lake Quilter members, pictured with Raymond Strobach, are Debbie Vanden Heuvel, Darlene Unick, Luanne Yanko, Arlene Penning and Arlene Judnic. (Rocky Jones assists holding the quilt).

## LEGION RIDERS FALL RIDE



The American Legion Riders participated in their annual Fall Ride.



From left are Rio's Vietnam Veteran Commemoration Program Chairman Dale Gajdosik; three brothers, Ray Przekurat, and twins John and Jim Przekurat; Marcus Lenius and Steve Haase; and Post Commander Terry Schraufnagel. Three other Veterans originally scheduled for this event and not pictured will be recognized at a later date, Phil Schrauf, Gary Powley, and Delbert Yaroch.

## VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION

As part of the national Vietnam War Veterans Commemoration Program, five Vietnam War Era Veterans were recognized for their service and sacrifice on October 15, 2023, at a program at the Rio American Francis Cuff Legion Post. Dale Gajdosik of Rio American Legion Post 208 led the very patriotic and heartwarming event, with many family members and friends also present.



Honored on September 2 were from left: Deb Krueger, Auxiliary Unit 233 representative, Veteran Deb Kozikowski, Veteran Tim Thomas with his wife Wanda, Veteran Bob Scheel with his wife Bonnie, Veteran Dave Weber with his wife Kay, Veteran Joe Burnell with his wife Loretta, Veteran Jerry Wolf, Veteran Sue McDermott, Veteran Bob Krueger and chairman Veteran Dennis Loomis.



Pictured with surviving spouses honored on September 2 were from left: Deb Krueger, Auxiliary Unit 233 representative, Sandy Ludwig and grandson for husband Edwin, Sue McDermott for husband John, Deb Kozikowski for husband Kenneth and chairman Veteran Dennis Loomis.

## POST 233 VIETNAM WAR PROGRAM

Waterloo American Legion Post 233 held their 4th Vietnam Veterans Commemorative program on September 2, 2023 after joining the Partners Program in January. Chairman Veteran Dennis Loomis reports that to date 7 surviving spouses have been recognized and honored as well as 24 Veterans and their families. Auxiliary Unit 233 has assisted with hosting the program. Waterloo American Legion Post 233 joined the Partners Program after Veteran Loomis was honored in a ceremony in March of 2022 in Rio. *Photos courtesy of Hunter Radke*



## 363 YEARS AT POST 91 75 YEARS AT POST 461



At the September meeting of Edwin L. Jones Post 91 of the American Legion, 363 years of continuous membership in the American Legion was recognized with eight members. Certificates are given to members with over 25 years of continuous membership. The certificates are given in 5-year intervals. This year; the members are Jim Pihringer (seated) 78 years, Don Gelantly (left) 40 years, Rose Snyder 50 years, Jerry Wendt presented the certificates for Post 91. Not pictured Pat Murphy, Ken Warzyn 40 years, Doug Wolter 30 years, and Erv Thierfelder 25 years. Legion membership is open to any Veteran who served in the military. Post 91 meets the third Monday at 7 PM, all are welcome.

## 50 YEARS AT POST 151



Parkis R. Waterbury received a certificate in recognition of 50 years of continuous membership in Westside Memorial Post 151, Madison.



Legion member Don Reinersten receiving his 75th continuous service award from Post 461 commander Mike Littmann this August.

## 70 YEARS AT POST 149



Richard Wachter receiving his 70 Year Membership plaque from Post 149. Dick is a Korean War Air Force Veteran who held every officer position in Post 149 including: Post Commander, Post Vice Commander, Sergeant-at-Arms, Firing Squad member, Adjutant, Camp American Legion Coordinator (he and his father built Cabin 15 in 1954) and mentor to dozens of Veteran Members of the Post. Standing next to Dick on the left is Post 149 Commander Robert Roska and on his right is Post Membership Chairman Dan Riviers.

## SYLVAN POST 44 BOOYAH LUNCH

American Legion Sylvan Post 44 hosted a free booyah luncheon for all our first responders and their families from all our local towns and communities. The rave of the day was the booyah made by Lisa Earley from Townsend. Lisa used her late father Harold Ebben's recipe. The neat event of the day was The Jaws of Life demonstration by the Wabeno Fire Department.



## DONATION TO POST 71

Associates from the Pewaukee Meijer's store presenting Commander Mark Johnsson and Finance Officer Dawn Bykowski from Pewaukee Post 71 a check for \$5,000 to assist with Post 71's mission which is to help Veterans and their families in need.



## HAPPY 99TH BIRTHDAY!



WWII Veterans Ross Smith (78-year member) and Milt Johnson (24-year member) of Amery Post 169 celebrate Milt's 99th Birthday along with other members of the Post.

## SCOUTS PROJECT AT POST 501



BSA Troop 628 started work on renovating our flagpole area and Bill Leppien commemorative rock. BSA Troop 628 sought a project that would benefit an American Legion Post and that would involve some construction. They chose Severson-Cairns Post 501 in Madison, Wisconsin. The project involved a significant amount of manual excavation, base sand replacement and leveling, and flagstone cutting and fitting. The project spanned a few weeks, from September 23 to October 6. Parental assistance was on hand to guide the task and to handle power tools when appropriate. The result was top-notch! In fact, the Scouts helped us on September 30 with our Brat & Burger fundraiser as order takers, runners and cashiers! From left: Keith Lovell, Gabriel, Jerry Schultz, Isaac, Tyler, Noah, Adam and Kris Scholten.

## POST 52 CUSTOM CANINE



La Crosse American Legion Post 52 Members (from left) Mike Sevallis, Mike Peterson and Gene Phillips presented a check for the custom canine.





## PATRIOTS DAY WITH POST 10



The Wausau American Legion Post 10 held its annual Patriot Day golf outing and awards ceremony at Bunkers Restaurant/ Tribute Golf Course in Wausau on Saturday, September 9, 2023.

A Patriot Day awards ceremony was held by the Wausau American Legion Post 10 at Bunkers Restaurant in Wausau on Saturday, September 9, 2023. The post annually recognizes individuals and businesses that have demonstrated a commitment to serving either the public or Veteran organizations throughout the year.



Legionnaire of the Year Award Post 10 - George Mosher (above right) the current Finance Officer at Post 10.

The Post 10 Patriot K-9s Award was also presented (bottom right).



## DISTRICT 11 LEGION RIDERS DONATE PEANUTS TO CAMP



District 11 American Legion Riders donated \$1,200 from the "Ride for Peanuts" to Camp American Legion. The peanuts are for feeding the wild chipmunks that are at the camp to entertain the guests.

## VETERANS DAY DISPLAY



Madelyn La Canne Post 539 set up this Veterans Day display at Associated Bank.

## POST 71 COLOR GUARD

Pewaukee Post 71's Color Guard Posted the Colors at Pewaukee Horizon School for Veterans Day.



## POST 501 BRAT FRY



Severson-Cairns Post held an advance recognition event of Veterans Day. Veterans received free brats. Fresh from the day's Dane County Membership Drive were Department Chaplain Virgil Smith and Dane County Commander Scott Klassy. From left to right, Post 501 Legionnaires John Luttig, Gene Call, District Vice Commander Keith Lovell, Scott Klassy, and Virgil Smith.



## POST 95 BELLS OF PEACE

Members of American Legion Post 95 in Delavan gathered for their annual Veterans Day observance with one significant difference this year. This was the first time for including a "Bells of Peace" ceremony and will be continued on a permanent basis.

The Doughboy Foundation started "Bells of Peace" and the World War One Centennial Commission issued a resolution calling upon all Americans to observe it. The first "Bells of Peace" ceremonies were held on Veterans Day in 2018 which was the centennial of the WWI armistice. When that war ended, the battlefield noise of gunfire and explosions was replaced by the tolling of church bells as peace was restored. Post 95 now continues that tradition of tolling bells to celebrate peace and to honor our Veterans, men and women who have served and sacrificed for America for the cause of peace and to secure our freedoms.



The "Bells of Peace" ceremony followed the prayer, rifle salute and taps. There was an address followed by the sound of a church bell tolling. It was tolled 21 times to signify the highest honor. The ceremony was well received by all.

## POST 33 SCHOOL PROGRAM



Neenah American Legion Post 33 posted the Colors during Veterans Day activities at Neenah High School, Shattuck Park in Neenah, and New Hope School in Fox Crossing.

## WISCONSIN REMEMBERS ... AND SO DOES ALMA POST 224



Post 224 in Alma featured the Wisconsin Remembers traveling exhibit at their post on September 23 and 24.



## CIVIL WAR GRAVESTONE RESTORATION PROJECT



ABOVE LEFT: In September, members of American Legion Post 477 St. Nazianz participated in the Civil War Gravestone Restoration Project at Evergreen Cemetery in Manitowoc. 137 volunteers restored more than 150 Civil War gravestones. Pictured (left to right) are Post members Ken Knauf, John Jacobs, Jeff Bronson, and Post Commander Chris Bestul. ABOVE RIGHT: During a recent visit to Belgium, American Legion Post 477 St. Nazianz Vice Commander Nancy Schnell Rivera was selected to participate in the wreath laying during the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium. Every night since 2 July 1928 at precisely 8 pm the Last Post ceremony takes place as a tribute to the courage and sacrifices of those who fell in defense of the town during WWI. The Last Post ceremony, which has become part of daily life in Ypres, consists of the Last Post played by buglers, followed by military units, bagpipers, the reading of a short poem, and the laying of wreaths. TOP AND BOTTOM RIGHT: September 9, 2023, LTC Jesse Augustine transferred command of the 173rd Brigade Engineer Battalion headquartered in Wausau during a change of command ceremony. Pictured with Jesse are his wife Meghan, and daughters, Layla and Ella. All four are part of the American Legion Family. Jesse is a member of Post 477 St. Nazianz, while Meghan, Layla, and Ella are in Auxiliary Unit 477.



## POST 471 SCOUT DONATION



Commander Ed Hable of the Hatley American Legion Post 471 recently presented a donation to the Hatley Scout Pack 497. The pack does an annual cleanup of the post's ball diamond and playground.

## STATE HIGHWAY RENAMING



Kurt Stuvengen, Post Commander of Wells-Davis-Young-Neal Post 209 in Orfordville, testified in front of the State Senate Transportation and Local Government Committee on SB 223, the bill to rename a portion of State Highway 11 in honor of CPL Benjamin H. Neal. Commander Kurt Stuvengen (center) posed after the session with the co-sponsors of the bill, Assemblyman Clinton Anderson (right) and Senator Mark Spreitzer.

## POST 534 DONATES TO 22 ZERO



Post 534 McFarland donated to 22 Zero.

## 40TH POW/MIA SILENT MARCH



Twin Lakes Post 544 (Post Commander Jim Schmidt) hosted the 1st District's 40th Annual POW/MIA Silent March. VADM Dirk Debbink was the guest speaker. Past State Commander Ted DeMicchi, State Vice Commander Jim Johnson and 1st District Commander Nathan Bond were also in attendance.

## POST 52 LA CROSSE HAS BEEN BUSY



ABOVE: Post 52 Color Guard at the singing of the national anthem for the opening of the 2023 La Crosse Oktoberfest celebration. RIGHT: On Memorial Day weekend, Post 52 La Crosse led the parade in La Crosse and then did honors in two locations in Oak Grove Cemetery, then again at Riverside Park with the Navy League.



## POST 60 OKTOBERFEST FUNDS



William Verhagen Post 60, Kimberly, raised funds and awareness of American Legion support for Veterans and families at Appleton's Oktoberfest September 30 with over 200,000 attending.





During his visit to Wisconsin, National Vice Commander Robert "Mark" Shreve poses with Wisconsin Commander Karl Stuvengen (above left), National Executive Committeeman Bob Shappell (above center), Wisconsin Adjutant Julie Muhle (above right), and Wisconsin Historian Michelle Adams (below left). He also met with Members at a parade in Milwaukee (below right).



**Michelle Adams**  
Department  
Historian

★★ DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN ★★

**NVC SHREVE VISITS WISCONSIN**

NVC Robert "Mark" Shreve has been a member of American Legion Post 189 in Pine Mountain Valley, GA since 2007. He is eligible for membership in The American Legion through his service in the U.S. Army from 1979 to 2001. He served with the Military Police. His duty stations were in Europe, Korea, Southeast Asia, and various units within the United States.

Shreve is a 2016 National American Legion College graduate and holds a bachelor's degree from West Virginia University and an associate degree from Saint Leo University. He served as the Department of Georgia Commander from 2021-2022 and is the current chairman of the American Legion Department of Georgia Medical Research Foundation. Shreve also serves as an instructor for the New District Commanders course held annually at The American Legion national convention. Shreve earned the District Commander Race to the Top award in 2015 and 2016. He is a six-time Gold Brigade recipient for recruiting 50 or more new members.

Shreve and his wife, Robyn, enjoy camping and

hiking. Robyn serves as the chairperson of Quilts of Valor for West Georgia. They have two sons; Robbie is married to Kristen and serves as an Army nurse in Hawaii, Matthew is married to Tiffany and serves as an operations analyst for a Fortune 200 company in Columbus, GA. Mark and Robyn are blessed with eight grandchildren.

NVC Shreve visited our Department of Wisconsin November 1-5, 2023. Escorted by NECman Robert Shappell, he began his visit with a meet-and-greet reception at Cedarburg Post 288. Day two began with Buddy Checks at St. Nazianz Post 477 and Plymouth Post 243 and ended with a Legion Family Open House at Hubertus Post 522. Day three started with a Witness Tree Ceremony with Hartford Post 19, followed by Buddy Checks at Fredonia Post 412, and Buddy Checks and an excellent in-house fish fry at Oak Creek Post 434. On day four he attended the Milwaukee Veterans Day Parade. NVC Shreve personally greeted a multitude of parade participants and attendees. Afterwards, he concluded his visit with a final meet-and-greet with Dodge County at Hustisford Post 420. We look forward to NVC Mark's return visit in Spring 2024!

★★★★ FUNDRAISING ★★★★★

Through your sense of pride and your dedication to The Department of Wisconsin, we will achieve great things.

The Fundraising Committee has two (2) opportunities for you to participate in. We have been given approval from the Department Executive Committee to hold a raffle of great significance. The raffle will be for a Yamaha Viking three-passenger UTV. This vehicle can be for trail riding or just around the homestead, or you can take \$10,000 cash. The Fundraising Committee would like you to commit to selling and/or buying at least two tickets. This raffle is open to Veterans and the general public. You can contact

your District Commander for tickets.

The other opportunity is at our Midwinter Conference in La Crosse, Wisconsin. This opportunity is Freezin' for a Reason. Freezin' for a Reason came about to make the public aware of our homeless Veterans. You will have two ways to contribute to this great cause. First, find volunteers to sleep in a box or a tent on Thursday and Friday of Midwinter or your post could donate to this worthy cause.

By participating in both of these opportunities we can achieve great things together.



**POST 534 AND TOYS FOR TOTS**

Toys for Tots donation from Oktoberfest. Post 534 McFarland is collecting new unwrapped toys for ages 0-12 at the Post through December. Cash can be given to the bartender. Pictured Marine Sgt. Hill and Post Commander Nate Weier \$567.

**POST 534 SENDS PACKAGES TO TROOPS**



McFarland Post 534 sent 49 packages to troops overseas.

**NEVER FORGOTTEN HONOR FLIGHT FROM POST 322**

Greg Regalia, Commander, Post 322 Babcock presenting James Campbell, co-founder of the "Never Forgotten Honor Flight" with a \$500 donation from the Post, to help with the expenses of future Veterans trips to Washington D.C.



**How to use a QR Code**

1. OPEN THE CAMERA ON YOUR PHONE.
2. POSITION THE CAMERA SO THE QR CODE IS IN THE FRAME.
3. YOUR PHONE WILL SCAN THE QR CODE AUTOMATICALLY.
4. YOU'LL SEE THE LINK THAT THE QR CODE LEADS TO.
5. TAP ON THE LINK WITH YOUR FINGER.
6. YOU WILL GO DIRECTLY TO THE REQUESTED WEBSITE.
7. PRACTICE USING THIS QR CODE. IT WILL TAKE YOU DIRECTLY TO WILEGION.ORG

SCAN ME





# UNGER NAMED LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

The post said a sad farewell to one of our most energetic and recognizable members on September 19. Comrade Jeffrey C. Unger, recognized with the rarely presented honor of Legionnaire of the Year award is leaving Wisconsin for the retired life in Panama City Beach, Florida. Jeff is known throughout the state for his advocacy of Veterans and his support of Veterans' issues, policies, and legislation. As a sign of the post's appreciation for all he has done for Post 348 and a sign of respect for his efforts for all Veterans, he was presented with an Air Force themed quilt.

His accomplishments are numerous. He is a longtime resident of DeForest and a founding member and past president of the DeForest Veterans Memorial Park Foundation where he was the driving force behind renaming a village park built on a past dumpsite that became Veterans Memorial Park and designing the park's tributes to each branch of the Armed Forces. Every year since 2006, Jeff picked a fitting theme for the Memorial Day ceremony in the park, ranging from the mock internment of Private Edward Olson, namesake of our post who died in action in the First World



**Jeffrey C. Unger (right) was named Post 348 Legionnaire of the Year.**

War, to a realistic rendition of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. One year he managed to get Governor Scott Walker to be the keynote speaker.

He is a recipient of the Department of Defense (DoD) Seven Seals Award, in recognition of significant individual or organizational achievement, initiative, or support that promotes and supports the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) mission, to include the efforts of the more than 4,700 volunteers who carry out ESGR's mission across the Nation daily. In presenting the award to Unger, his wealth of experience, knowledge, and leadership were

acknowledged. The seven seals is a reference to the seals of the seven National Guard and reserve components. He was also honored with the James M. Roche Spirit of Volunteerism Award, the highest honor given to a volunteer of the ESGR for sustained quality of service over a sustained period of years. In 2012, Major General Donald Dunbar, The Adjutant General of Wisconsin presented Jeff the Wisconsin Meritorious Service Medal, the second highest decoration under the Distinguished Service Medal, awarded to private citizens for meritorious service and achievements that contributed significantly to the accomplishment of the mission of the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs and the Wisconsin National Guard.

Jeff and his wife Shauna, an Auxiliary member, recently retired from their jobs with the Department of Military Affairs and the State Patrol respectively. They have two adult children, Kristen, and Matt. We will miss the excitement he created when he was around and his tremendous contributions. Congratulations on being named to the high honor as the Post's 2023 Legionnaire of the Year.



**Virgil Smith  
Department  
Chaplain**

## ★★ DEPARTMENT ★★ CHAPLAIN

Greetings Legion Family, as I sat here behind my keyboard asking myself what I should write about, the word leadership came to mind. Webster defines a leader as, "A person or thing that leads as a guide, to guide or conduct by going with or ahead of, or by teaching, or showing or commanding others." Now that we know what Webster's definition of leadership is, let us look at what scripture has to say about leadership. Listed below are six scriptures that come to mind. After each scripture is a brief statement for us to ponder.

**Proverbs 12:24** Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and become a slave. *What, me a leader, you must be kidding, yes you. If you have any influence on anyone you are a leader. What can you do today to become a better leader?*

**Hebrews 13:7** Remember your leaders who first taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives and trust the Lord as they do. *Make a list of those who have made an enormous difference in your life. What about those leaders do you want to imitate?*

**John 15:16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.

*Let us do a little math here, say you have two children, and they grow up and get married and each of them have two children and this trend continues for the next four hundred years you will have one million members in your family tree. What aspect of your life will remain in them?*

**1 Peter 5:3** Do not lord over the people assigned to your care but lead them by your own good example.

*You may not consider yourself a leader, but that is what God is making you. He wants to use us to help others by our own good example, which is what a leader is. Who is learning from your example? What are they learning?*

**1 Thessalonians 5:14** We urge you, brothers, (sisters) to warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

*You get the picture; we need to take a great interest in others. Who in your life may need a warning, a word of encouragement, or a helping hand?*

**Philippians 4:9** Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me; put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

*God has called you to follow His example if you do you will in return set the example for others. What in your life is worth Following?*

In closing, I want to leave you with a final question, for you to ponder when leading others. What kind of legacy spiritually or otherwise will you leave your family, your friends and those you lead? May God bless you and keep you, may His face shine upon you and give you peace.



**Paul Fisk  
Foundation  
President**

## ★ AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION ★

'Tis the season to review your 2023 tax situation. Many are required to take a distribution from their Individual Retirement Account (IRA) prior to the end of the year. It is also common for families to use a portion of the distribution for charitable purposes. The Wisconsin American Legion

Foundation is organized as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit organization. All contributions are exempt from income tax for the donor. This is a tool you can use to reduce your Federal and State income tax liability and support your legion project of choice.

When you contribute to the Wisconsin American Legion Foundation your options for using the monies are

vast. If you do not designate a fund, the use is decided by the board. They may be used to pay operating expenses or any request the board receives from the Department for funding assistance. Does Camp American Legion hold a special place in your heart? You may designate your contribution to Camp or to a specific Camp project such as rebuilding a specific cabin or purchasing new equipment. The choice is yours. The Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy is always raising funds to support their program. Does the Service Office hold a special place in you heart? You can provide monies to any of these or any other Wisconsin American Legion program.

Your IRA gives you the opportunity to lower your tax liability and begin creating a legacy for posterity.



**Vacant  
Membership  
Coordinator**

## ★★★ MEMBERSHIP ★★★

### USE MYLEGION.ORG FOR MEMBERSHIP

One of the things I ask when I go to conferences is "How many people are using myLegion.org?" I get far more hands raised than I did a year or two ago, but there is still opportunity for those not using it to start to do so. For

the adjutants and/or membership chairs, it helps to manage your post, county or district membership. At a post level, you can run reports that show which of your members paid online, you can look up a member's dues history (back to 2011) when their continuous years don't align, you can print a current roster, a roster of paid members, print labels, print renewal letters and labels for those renewal letters, print members from the 2930 post so you can transfer them into your post and find members who moved into your area. You can also help your members by updating their contact information, printing membership cards that are lost or damaged or updating their current status (active or deceased).

Processing membership takes less than half the time as it does to process them manually. Once you add your

bank account – actual or a separate account in which you only have enough money for each transmittal – the renewals are checked online and go directly to National to get processed. All you need to send is the member's new card. The other two parts can be destroyed.

Individuals can get an account too! When you sign up, you can change your contact information, demographics, address, emergency contact, print your membership card if lost or damaged and, under Subscriptions, you can opt in/out of media such as flag alerts, training emails, Digital Dispatch, online updates. Also under Subscriptions, you can opt in/out of emails to do with joining and renewing. This is particularly ideal for anyone who is a PUFL! There is even an option to automatically renew your membership! Just save a credit card on file and no more renewal reminders other than to let you know they will be charging your annual dues to the credit card on file.

We will be doing two classes on myLegion.org at Midwinter training (January 20, 2024 in La Crosse). Stop in to see what things are all about!

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IF ...**



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\*This is only an outline of the plans services. Please review your Member Guide carefully. EA+ is not insurance.



From Your  
American Legion  
Department

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## ★★ DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT ★★

**Julie Muhle**  
Department  
Adjutant

I have had several questions regarding insurance lately. How much? What type? Fortunately, at some recent training Commander Karl and I attended, we received some guidance regarding this very question.

**Posts with no buildings** – Commercial general liability (\$1,000,000), Director and Officer liability, and sexual abuse and molestation coverage.

**Posts with a physical building** – Commercial general liability (\$1,000,000), Director and Officer liability, and sexual abuse and molestation coverage and non-owned auto liability.

**Posts with a physical building and a bar** – Commercial general liability (\$1,000,000), Director and Officer liability, and sexual abuse and molestation coverage, non-owned auto liability and liquor liability.

Another coverage outlined in our Bylaws, Article VII, Section 3, is fidelity/crime insurance in an adequate amount as determined by the District, County, or Post Executive Committee. The coverage amount should be adequate to protect cash assets handled by those who handle the monies. It may be only your finance officer or could be more than one person.

The American Legion has a relationship with NFP Insurance Agency to assist each post with a fiduciary/crime insurance through a purchasing group provided by NFP Insurance Agency using Chubb Insurance Paper. You can download the application at [www.legion.org/documents/pdf/crime-american\\_legion\\_questionnaire.pdf](http://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/crime-american_legion_questionnaire.pdf). Please check your own insurance provider to make sure you are getting the best rates possible.



## ★★ VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER ★★

**James Fialkowski**  
Department Veterans  
Service Officer

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND VA HEALTHCARE

I hope this finds you and your loved ones happy and healthy during these Holidays.

When it comes to healthcare, you are your own best advocate. The example that I use is from VA healthcare, but this applies to any provider. Keep in mind that you are seeing a medical professional, let them work for you. You will most likely be surprised with the results. I have had two Veterans using the VA healthcare system in my office with similar hearing loss problems. One went to audiology and said they wanted hearing aids. The audiology department gave them a nice set of hearing aids. The other went to audiology and spoke about their concerns. "I cannot use my cell phone because I cannot hear well enough to make out the words, I cannot understand anyone sitting across from me in a noisy environment, and I cannot watch TV without blasting people out of the room with the volume so loud." The VA audiology department gave them a device for the TV. With this new device, they can control the volume and listen directly in their new hearing aids (The TV's volume can be on zero). They instructed the Veteran on how to use the new hearing aids to answer their cell phone and listen directly in and talk through their hearing aids. Also, how the same hearing aids can limit ambient noise and focus on the person in front of them. This maximizes the ability to understand the person sitting in front of them. Two different approaches and vastly different outcomes. Let your provider know your concerns and be sure your concerns are addressed to your satisfaction. "Thank you for addressing A and B, but do we have an idea of how to approach C?" I can go on and on with examples.

I have firsthand knowledge of how good the healthcare can be at the VA. The VA literally saved my life. I had a nurse that changed positions from another hospital to the VA hospital, who served, come to my office. They wanted to get service connected so they could get care at the VA because they were so impressed at the treatment there. According to data provided in a survey done by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, a federal agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, the VA hospital system is highly rated, outperforming private hospitals by 26 percentage points. I could tell story after story how impressive the VA hospital system is and how this VA is not the VA of old.

You will find the eligibility requirements on the VA website: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/>. Contact your local County Veterans Service Office 1-844-947-2876 or our office 414-902-5722, if you want information on enrollment or have any questions on the qualifying reasons.

Today's VA healthcare is forward thinking, constantly evolving to better leverage their ability to provide care, and they understand Veterans better. Not everyone will qualify for VA healthcare care, but I highly suggest you try to enroll.

## NEW FLAG FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE FOR BERLIN SCHOOL

Giving students a focal point for saying the Pledge of Allegiance each morning, local Veteran groups including O'Connor-Chiers American Legion Post 340 and Legion Auxiliary, Wells-Krause Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2925 and Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Redgranite Chapter 51 purchased flags for each classroom in the newly opened All Saints Regional Catholic School. In addition to the 22 American Flags, one for each room, the combined Veterans groups also purchased a large American Flag to be flown outside the school as well as two



American Flags and one Wisconsin Flag, along with the associated stands, poles and eagle toppers, for display and use inside the school. A member of the DAV and American Legion first approached both groups with the idea of donating the flags to the school, with all three groups joining together on the effort, presenting the flags leading up to the school's recent grand opening ceremony in September.

*The article and photo are courtesy of the Berlin Journal Newspapers.*



## MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT AT BARRON HIGH SCHOOL

Barron High School recognized special captains for its home football game Friday night, September 1 before the game against Cameron High School. On Military Appreciation Night, the Barron Golden Bears wore military-themed jerseys and introduced several honorary captains in front of a large crowd.



A color guard (above) with members from VFW Post 8338, Barron Legion Post 212, Cameron Legion Post 194 and AMVETS Post 888, accompanied by other area Veterans marched the colors to the center of the field for the playing of the national anthem.

Pictured are (from the left) Andrew Gunther (8th grade Player of the Week), Bard Kittleson (Korean War

Veteran and 1951 BHS grad wearing his old jersey number 23), junior captain Daniel Edwards, Waylon Cox (2007 BHS grad and Iraq veteran wearing #63), sophomore captain Shawn Holten, Daniel Roth (2004 BHS grad and Afghanistan Veteran)

freshman Brennan Hanson (scout team Player of the Week), VFW Commander Ron Ramos (number 6), sophomore captain Zac Edwards, Junior captain Brett McDonough, and Logan Charron (7th grade Player of the Week).

*Submitted by Greg Roth, Post 212 Commander.*



## DISTRICT 12 HOSTS FALL CONFERENCE

District 12, Wisconsin American Legion Fall Conference was held at the Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center in Superior, Wis. Sept. 23, 2023.

Post 435 was honored to welcome Karl Stuvengen, Department Commander, Allen Watry, SAL Detachment Commander, and Julie Muhle, Department Adjutant.





**James Bond**  
WDVA  
Secretary

★★★★ **WDVA SECRETARY** ★★★★★

Greetings Legionnaires! As I reflect on the progress made for Veterans in Wisconsin during 2023, I wanted to highlight the goals I've had in mind since I was appointed as Secretary for the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. The five goals I outlined for success for our Veterans include: strengthening relationships with our stakeholders, raising awareness of Wisconsin's Veterans benefit programs, increasing awareness of mental health support services, suicide prevention, and housing, meeting the challenges needed to improve our state's Veterans homes, and show the benefits for Veterans to live and work in Wisconsin.

To this end, I've traveled extensively this year across the Badger State meeting with many different groups and Veterans service organizations. Additionally, I've met with the leaders of Wisconsin's Tribal nations to strengthen our mutual goal of better serving our state's tribal Veterans and families. I am committed to Wisconsin's diverse and strong Veteran communities.

We continue to make strides for our Veterans in need including those dealing with mental health issues, substance use, and stable housing. To meet this need we've expanded our Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP) to 16 outreach staff that cover all 72 counties, reaching more Veterans than ever before and in the process, we are saving

lives. Additionally, VORP now offers QPR Training – a specialized suicide prevention certification training – for organizations within Wisconsin that request it.

We've begun initiatives to raise awareness and enroll more Wisconsin Veterans in their eligible benefit programs. This includes our plans to completely redesign our department website to make it more user-friendly and accessible to all Veterans. Additionally, our benefits division is evaluating how to improve the point of service delivery to Veterans with their questions and claims assistance.

Our Veterans' homes and our cherished members who live there remain a top priority. This also includes targeted employee recruitment and salary retention programs, implementing feedback on recent surveys from families and residents, and ongoing supplemental training for all care staff.

Lastly, we are committed to showing the immense benefits Wisconsin provides for Veterans, and their families, who choose to live and work in our state. This includes showcasing not just the vocational or educational benefits, but to also emphasize the bounty of seasonal outdoor activities and the excellent quality of life in our local communities. Wisconsin is a great place to not just live but live well!

I am grateful for the American Legion and Auxiliary always being a steadfast partner in serving our state's Veterans and families. This Holiday season as we all spend more time with those we love and care about most, please keep our deployed servicemembers, Veterans, and their families in your thoughts.

**LONE ROCK DONATION FOR CAMP**



The Lone Rock Legion and Auxiliary #383 had a brat stand and bake sale on Saturday, Sept. 30 to raise money for maintenance of Cabin 14 at Camp American Legion in Lake Tomahawk, WI. The camp is a place for Veterans, military and their families to come together in a safe place on the road back to health. The event raised \$1,323 between sales and donations for the camp. Thank you to all who stopped in and also to Thrivent and Kwik Trip who provided grant money to pay for brats and buns.



**Paul Fisk**  
Legislative  
Chair

★★★★ **LEGISLATIVE CHAIR** ★★★★★

The American Legion state and national legislative programs begins at the local post. Post membership is always discussing things they want to see changed. This may be something concerning existing benefits, or something affecting returning service members. If the discussion relates to the four pillars, it probably is something we can address.

The place to start is putting pen to paper and drafting a resolution. The best guidance I have seen on writing resolutions is a paper titled **RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS**. A copy is available on the Department website. To locate it go to the Resources section than legislative. It is under Reports of legislative interest.

After your post adopts a resolution, it needs to be forwarded to Department Headquarters. It will be reviewed by

the Department Internal Affairs Committee and assigned with a recommendation to a convention committee. Convention committees are made up of representatives from each district. The convention committee will discuss and make a recommendation prior to sending your resolution to the convention floor for final action. If adopted by the floor your resolution becomes Department policy and will be used to change or create state policy through legislation or changes to the Administrative Code.

Just as you and your post can affect our legislative agenda and state or national policy, you can recognize legislators who support the goals of the American Legion Your post can nominate a legislator for the **LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD**. You can find all the information you need in the current Administrative Manual.

There are less than 30 session days left in this legislature. Soon they will be running to retain their seat. Get out and talk to them about Veteran issues.

**MEDALS FOR A KOREAN WAR VETERAN**



Korean War Veteran George R. Schroeder was presented the medals he was awarded for his service by Winnebago County VSO Kevin Jurgella and members of Neenah Post 33. Pictured in front is George R. Schroeder and the back row from left to right are: Sue Schroeder, wife of SAL member George G. Schroeder; George G. Schroeder; Post 33 Commander Chase Freimark; Vice Commander Bob Borszich; Grandson Adam Schroeder; CVSO Kevin Jurgella.

**CAMP AMERICAN LEGION . . .**

**CAMP IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2024**



**Jim Klement**  
Camp American  
Legion Director

"Who is eligible to attend Camp American Legion?" is a question that I get asked numerous times. There are only two requirements to attend camp. First, you have to be a Wisconsin resident. This requirement comes from our DNR lease and is something that we cannot change or make exceptions. Second is either an actively serving member of any branch of

the armed services (Reserve and National Guard also) or an honorably discharged Veteran.

Another question that is asked is, "Who can attend camp with the Veteran?" Camp is available to the Veteran and their immediate family. Spouse and dependent age (18 and younger) children.

We are now accepting applications for our 2024 season. The applications can be found at [www.campamericanlegion.org](http://www.campamericanlegion.org).

Priority will go to new Veterans until 1 January, so if you have not been to Camp, get your application in prior to the new year and you will have a good chance on getting your selected week. After the 1st of January, we will start filling with Veterans who have attended camp in previous years. We will still accept applications all throughout the year, but the later you wait, the slimmer the chances of you getting in become. Please make sure that when you send in your application that you also send in your proof of Wisconsin residency along with proof of service. Once we receive the application, you will receive an email confirming our receipt of the application. After first of the year, we will start sending out acceptance letters.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call camp.

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

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



*"Surround yourself with good people and they will lift you up!"*

**OUR MISSION**

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

**OUR VISION**

*Giving Wisconsin Veterans the pathway to quality of life*

**OUR VALUES**

*Honor and Stewardship*



# The Last Bugle



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

<b>1 Germantown</b>		<b>19 Hartford</b>	
Robert R. Roos	K	Gene Falkenstein	V
Allen J. Sande	K	Samuel C. Wasley	V
<b>8 Waukesha</b>		<b>21 Kenosha</b>	
Louis Occhetti	K	Duane M. Wallace	V
Paul F. Aarestad	K	<b>24 Lake Geneva</b>	
Joseph S. Rucci	K	Paul G. Swatek	K
Charles Franzke	WWII	Eugene E. Haseley	K
<b>9 Wisconsin Rapids</b>		Robert L. Trickey	WWII
Clinton R. Schulz	WWII	<b>26 Baraboo</b>	
<b>10 Wausau</b>		John P. Trigleth	V
Les Hotchkiss	K	Gerald F. Cummings	V
Patrick J. Zachmeyer	V	Joseph H. Wedekind	K
Jim Light	V	Kenneth W. Volz	WWII
Eugene W. Hauer	V	<b>29 Kewaunee</b>	
Michael Syring	V	Carl E. Kuehl	K
<b>11 Green Bay</b>		<b>35 Evansville</b>	
Kenneth Mickle	K	Arthur S. Wynne	WWII
Ervin Ripp	K	<b>38 Appleton</b>	
Ralph J. Disalvo	WWII	Glenn R. Tank	K
Frank S. Bennett	V	Donald L. Brandenburg	K
<b>16 Cudahy</b>		Tony Rosecky	WWII
Robert D. Verbrugge	K	John E. Zuelzke	
Gilbert D. Lenski	V	Jerry J. Javenkoski	P
<b>17 Arcadia</b>		Duane G. Moder	K
William E. Braun	V	Eugene H. Fassbender	K
		Walter Helbig	G/L

<b>41 Kaukauna</b>		Ronald Hummitzsch	K	John Burgbacher	V	<b>198 Marion</b>		Jerold R. Surges	V	<b>437 Mazomanie</b>	
Gerald Maki	V	Jeffrey H. Gruenke	V	Gerald R. Hoveland	V	Robert L. Eggleston	K	<b>339 Almond</b>		Elmer V. Racek	K
<b>44 Wabeno</b>		Conrad Zimmermann	K	James W. Kreuziger	K	Edward Elandt	K	Herbert Lucht	K	<b>440 Clinton</b>	
John M. Brickner	V	<b>84 Monroe</b>		Roger C. Miller	V	<b>200 Black River Falls</b>		Ed Jagielo	WWII	Edward J. Edwards	K
<b>48 Beloit</b>		Robert A. Wartenweiler	K	Robert W. Schoenwetter	K	Robert Knutson	V	Raymond Warzynski	K	<b>447 Viola</b>	
Dan R. Hatch	V	Jack Oostdik	V	Delmer M. Schultz	WWII	<b>201 Tomah</b>		Donald E. Sampson	WWII	Franklin D. Meseberg	V
Dennis G. Brooks	V	<b>87 Rice Lake</b>		Bruce Nagle	V	Wayne P. Johnson	K	James J. Bauer	V	Bud Gochenaur	K
George E. Obrien	K	Jack A. Hager	V	Daniel J. Strieff	V	<b>204 Ellsworth</b>		Edward Ebert	V	Paul C. Schneider	V
<b>51 West Salem</b>		Bud R. Reischl	WWII	Delmar G. Kohl	K	Sam Haster	V	Gerald Schultz	K	Russell I. Lancaster	V
Gerald F. Wehrenberg	K	<b>88 Manitowoc</b>		Robert J. Maly	V	Irvin D. Yelle	K	<b>351 Montello</b>		Roger L. Perkins	V
Roger E. Will	V	Gerald A. Panosh	V	Merlin Kienast	WWII	Robert G. Bunce	V	Reinold Eckelberg	WWII	<b>449 Brookfield</b>	
Donald F. Horstman		<b>89 Minocqua</b>		Andrew J. Harmon	GWOT	Duane Raehsler	K	Robert Hipke	V	Robert J. Brueckner	K
<b>52 La Crosse</b>		Albert G. Whitney Jr.	WWII	Lloyd J. Lathrop	V	<b>206 Wonewoc</b>		Raymond Tiegs	K	<b>454 Mt. Calvary</b>	
James L. Kroner Sr.	WWII	<b>95 Delavan</b>		Willard J. Weiss	K	John J. Jurkowski	V	Lawrence Woyach		Richard D. Olig	V
Rodney Weiner	V	Richard L. Malsch	V	<b>147 Medford</b>		Harold M. Thompson	V	Earl G. Langhenrich		<b>455 Milwaukee</b>	
<b>53 Eau Claire</b>		Brian E. Davis	V	Corliss V. Jensen	WWII	<b>214 Darlington</b>		Roger R. Heppner	K	James N. Williams	WWII
Sumner Scott	WWII	<b>98 Cumberland</b>		Michael D. Urfer	V	James Ronnerud	V	Timothy A. Roy	V	Petro A. Langdon	
Richard Melland	K	Ronald Parsons	K	William J. Culligan	V	<b>216 Lodi</b>		<b>357 Bay City</b>		<b>459 Eleva</b>	
Ralph W. Grover	WWII	<b>102 Walworth</b>		<b>151 Madison</b>		Jerry J. Markgraf	V	Jack Celt		Robert D. Berg	V
<b>54 Marshfield</b>		Roy H. Hoyt	V	Fredric T. Williams	K	<b>217 Bonduel</b>		James W. Luepke	V	Raymond D. Iverson	WWII
Lee N. Burt	V	<b>103 Galesville</b>		<b>152 Menasha</b>		<b>360 Waunakee</b>		Lester Miller	WWII	<b>461 Pembine</b>	
Donald G. Foster	V	Kenneth Poss	K	Jerome A. Schoultz		<b>362 Kennan</b>		Gary Quinn	V	Eugene T. Tessmann	V
Dale E. Kopf	V	<b>105 Shullsburg</b>		Garland Smith	K	<b>224 Alma</b>		<b>364 Winneconne</b>		<b>469 Marathon</b>	
Lyle Steffen		Keith Whitcomb	V	Clement M. Vangompel	K	Peter T. Mueller		George Kresal	WWII	Pat Buchberger	K
<b>59 Stoughton</b>		<b>106 Seymour</b>		<b>154 Mondovi</b>		<b>372 Forestville</b>		Thomas F. McAdams	K	<b>477 St. Nazianz</b>	
Stanley C. Lund	K	Wayne M. Cheslock	V	Dennis Brion	V	Allen L. Schneider	K	Jim Strasser	V	William Hagen	V
Allan W. Eggleston	K	<b>114 Eagle River</b>		<b>155 Westby</b>		<b>245 Cross Plains</b>		Dennis Kerl	V	William J. Vanveghel	K
<b>60 Kimberly</b>		Werner Kant	V	William H. Keefer	K	<b>250 Adams</b>		Ken H. Stiemke	V	Robert J. Olson	V
Richard J. Lamers	K	<b>116 Coon Valley</b>		Gary Manninger	V	<b>254 Milltown</b>		Eric Todnem		<b>483 Allenton</b>	
<b>61 Prescott</b>		Sylvester King Jr.	K	<b>158 Maiden Rock</b>		Eugene G. Johnson	V	Kathleen Ligenza	V	Reinhold A. Fischer	K
William Patterson	V	William Patterson	V	Charles M. Serene Jr.	WWII	<b>255 Luck</b>		Alex Kolodzne	K	John A. Podgorski	V
Jack B. Ames	V	<b>120 West Allis</b>		Eric Todnem		Thomas M. Dowd	V	Julius W. Aebly	V	Robert G. Leher	V
<b>65 Rome</b>		Gary E. Heyel	V	<b>161 King</b>		<b>258 Little Chute</b>		Michael C. Leider	K	<b>486 Jackson</b>	
Norman C. Peck	WWII	<b>121 River Falls</b>		Kathleen Ligenza	V	Raymond J. Brockman	K	William J. Poisl Jr.	V	Franklin Kringel	K
<b>68 Prairie du Chien</b>		Thomas E. Cafflich	V	<b>164 Jefferson</b>		<b>262 Luxemburg</b>		William H. Brace	K	Frederick J. Lang	V
Thaddeus B. Peak	K	Myron K. Olson	K	Alex Kolodzne	K	Dalen P. Jauquet	V	Robert C. Ostrander	V	Daniel E. Thews	V
<b>73 Neillville</b>		George W. Gomoll	V	<b>168 Glenwood City</b>		Garfield C. Davister	V	Allen P. Schurrer	V	<b>386 Cascade</b>	
Bob Bell		Robert C. Ostrander	V	Julius W. Aebly	V	John W. Cannivet	K	<b>171 Union Grove</b>		Glenn Martch	V
<b>77 Chippewa Falls</b>		Gene Quicker	V	<b>176 Weyauwega</b>		<b>264 Gilmanton</b>		Michael C. Leider	K	<b>401 Cambria</b>	
Joseph E. Reed	V	Joseph E. Reed	V	William H. Brace	K	Kenneth G. Klopp	V	William J. Poisl Jr.	V	Clarence S. Katsma	K
<b>80 New Richmond</b>		Robert Bernier	V	<b>184 Fennimore</b>		William D. Wollschlager	V	<b>263 New London</b>		<b>402 Washington Island</b>	
Daniel D. Harshman	V	Robert Martineau	V	Darrel Ellis	K	John W. Cannivet	K	Terry L. Smith	V	Marshall J. Cowell	V
<b>82 Port Washington</b>		Robert M. Norlander		<b>185 Grantsburg</b>		<b>264 Gilmanton</b>		Ronald L. Gately	V	<b>403 Webb Lake</b>	
Rosemary C. Springer	K	<b>134 Boscobel</b>		Russell H. Christensen	K	Kenneth G. Klopp	V	Daniel E. Thews	V	Douglas C. Hanson	V
<b>83 Sheboygan</b>		Harry A. Brechler	WWII	Mark H. Loomis	V	William D. Wollschlager	V	<b>386 Cascade</b>		<b>409 Lake Nebagamon</b>	
Gordon A. Moen	WWII	<b>136 Niagara</b>		Ann P. Peak	WWII	Larry L. Smart	V	Glenn Martch	V	Joseph M. White	V
Daniel D. Harshman	V	Charles E. Cretton	V	<b>192 Franklin</b>		<b>403 Webb Lake</b>		<b>401 Cambria</b>		Clarence S. Katsma	K
<b>88 Manitowoc</b>		Donald G. Jacobson	V	James E. Middlestead	V	<b>402 Washington Island</b>		Clarence S. Katsma	K	<b>402 Washington Island</b>	
Robert A. Straus	V	<b>146 Beaver Dam</b>		James A. Fowler	V	Marshall J. Cowell	V	Warren C. Ellmann	V	<b>403 Webb Lake</b>	
Henry A. Reimer	K	Gordon E. Laue	K	Tom Mahlberg	V	<b>409 Lake Nebagamon</b>		Joel A. Rellatz	V	<b>409 Lake Nebagamon</b>	

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<b>295 Bloomer</b>		Richard R. Meinen	K	<b>301 Woodville</b>		Ernest F. Nytes	V	<b>412 Belgium</b>		George E. Mangan Jr	K
Richard R. Meinen	K	Marvin W. Loock	V	Robert J. Gartmann	V	Thomas D. Bichler	V	Ernest F. Nytes	V	Douglas Vanvorous	V
<b>302 Oconto Falls</b>		Robert J. Gartmann	V	Roger Johnson	K	<b>416 Greendale</b>		Thomas D. Bichler	V	Dale Everett	V
Bruce W. Plain	K	<b>302 Oconto Falls</b>		Donald E. Kopp	K	Kenneth P. Judy	V	Robert J. Gartmann	V	<b>537 Milwaukee</b>	
<b>306 Green Lake</b>		Donald E. Kopp	K	<b>426 Milwaukee</b>		William J. Wagner	K	<b>540 Haugen</b>		James E. Czajkowski	V
Willis Bloch	K	<b>306 Green Lake</b>		Daniel W. Martin	K	<b>527 Sister Bay</b>		James E. Czajkowski	V	<b>2930 Portage</b>	
David G. Zeatlow	V	Willis Bloch	K	<b>428 Amberg</b>		Roland Neumann	K	<b>428 Amberg</b>		Timothy Wenger	G/L
<b>310 Racine</b>		David G. Zeatlow	V	Kenneth Mattison	K	Timothy Wenger	G/L	<b>431 Three Lakes</b>		Frank N. Weiss	K
Harold R. Erickson	V	<b>310 Racine</b>		<b>431 Three Lakes</b>		Harold E. Gehin	K	Henry Wagner		Harold E. Gehin	K
<b>315 Stoddard</b>		Harold R. Erickson	V	Henry Wagner		John H. Ault	GWOT	<b>433 Barneveld</b>		John H. Ault	GWOT
Donald L. Lake	V	<b>315 Stoddard</b>		<b>433 Barneveld</b>		Jim Strasser	V	David L. Field	V	Darren Teske	PG
Clarence E. Haydysch	K	Donald L. Lake	V	David L. Field	V	<b>434 Oak Creek</b>		<b>434 Oak Creek</b>		Eugene Stefaniak	K
<b>324 Osseo</b>		<b>324 Osseo</b>		Dale M. Miller	V	Dale M. Miller	V	<b>435 Superior</b>		Stanley C. Leager	V
Alvin F. Voss	K	Alvin F. Voss	K	<b>435 Superior</b>		Elbert A. Zaun	K	Tony Quinones	K	Harold E. Sharp	V
<b>333 Sun Prairie</b>		<b>333 Sun Prairie</b>		Elbert A. Zaun	K	William E. Cronin	V	William E. Cronin	V	Denis Winrich	V
Jerry A. Brassard	V	Jerry A. Brassard	V	Tony Quinones	K	<b>436 Wrightsville</b>		<b>436 Wrightsville</b>		Kurt Mintlaw	P
Frederick Ross	K	Frederick Ross	K	William E. Cronin	V	R.J. Vandewymelenbe	K	R.J. Vandewymelenbe	K	Clyde Buhrow	
<b>337 Pulaski</b>		<b>337 Pulaski</b>		Roman Przybylski	K						



# WISCONSIN



December 2023

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

alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

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www.amlegionauxwi.org

## MEMBERSHIP

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

The "Poppy Up" Team started out with a bang but as of the last membership report several of our districts are starting to show signs of tiredness. Membership Chairmen, please do not hold on to memberships. Only those memberships that have been processed by Department are considered valid memberships. If you are flooded with renewals to process, please reach out to your counties or districts or even other unit members for assistance. Working together is the solution to make a huge project seem less burdensome.

As of this writing, our Department is still in 1st Place in the Central Division. Our puppies will not give up and are striving to keep this lead. Let's not let them down!

For those members who recruited new members, please remember that you must fill out a Recruit 1 form to receive a poppy pin. This form can be found on the department website under Programs, Membership, Awards (2024 Recruit 1-Department). If you are unable to locate any of our forms, please contact anyone on the Membership Committee or Andrea at Department and we will be happy to assist.

### 2024 Membership Totals (as of 11/20/23) – 61.38%

DIST.	GOAL %	MUSHER
12	68.01%	Baby Girl
03	67.55%	Ranger
09	65.09%	Percy
04	64.17%	Winkle
02	63.86%	Sloane
10	61.63%	Balto
01	61.00%	Diamond
07	60.18%	Hero
06	59.87%	Denali
08	59.29%	Isabella
11	50.06%	D.O.G.
05	48.13%	Little Girl



With the holidays approaching it is understandable that we are all getting busy with preparations. While shopping and parties may take precedence, we still need to be visible and promote our organization. Wear branded clothing while shopping as it will most likely lead to some sort of conversation about what our organization stands

for. We are the ambassadors for our Veterans and should show our pride in what we do for Veterans, military and their families.

Have a wonderful holiday season and keep up the great work in promoting our organization and welcoming new members to join our ranks.

### FALL CREEK AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY CELEBRATES 80 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP!



Betty Patzwald has been a treasured member of Fall Creek American Legion Auxiliary Unit 376 for 80 years, joining at the age of 18. She was a very active member and we are so thankful for all she has done for our unit and the community. We are especially grateful for the many hours she put into the annual poppy drive each year, one of her favorite activities. Betty was presented with a Continuous Member Certificate for her 80 years of service.

*Poppy  
Reminder*

**2024 ORDER  
DEADLINE:  
DECEMBER 15**

Poppies can be  
distributed all year long.

**Don't Delay –  
Order Today!**



### 2024 ALA DAILY SWEEPSTAKES

2024 Daily Sweepstakes entry forms have been mailed.  
If you want additional entry forms, please call department headquarters.  
*Only original entry forms will be accepted.*

**Daily prizes are \$15. Sunday prizes are \$25.**  
**One \$500 prize each month.**

**The last day to enter is December 31, 2023.**  
Official sweepstakes rules are posted  
on the department website.

Although a donation is not required, the money raised  
allows the ALA to maintain programs that benefit  
our Veterans, the military, their families, and our communities  
– so **donations are greatly appreciated.**

**THANK YOU  
TO EVERYONE WHO  
ALREADY RESPONDED.**



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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

**Psalms 95: 2-3** — 2. *Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him.* 3. *For the Lord is a great God, a great King above all gods.*

This is my favorite time of the year. The colors are bright, the harvest is in, and the whole country is Thanksgiving God for his goodness.

### PRAYER

Father, you created all things simply with your words. One word from you and your power is evident. I am amazed by your power. We need your power in our lives. We face impossible circumstances and are desperate for a miracle. Would you show us your power in our lives today? Thank you for all the good things you shower on us. Amen

### MUSIC

Christmas music is my favorite music. This is a good time to bring music into your meetings, caroling, and enjoy the season with gladness.

## GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

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

The department website was recently updated! Please check out all the information available – such as the 2023-2024 Red Book, bi-monthly unit mailings, district newsletters, ALA program contacts and general information, membership reports, forms, etc.

The American Legion Auxiliary will be conducting a session at the Midwinter Conference in La Crosse on Saturday, January 20, 2023. Attendees will make tie blankets, Socks of Love, and Valentine's Day cards for Wisconsin Veterans; hear from guest speakers; and be able to ask questions during a Q&A session. Anyone interested in participating must register for the Midwinter Conference through The American Legion (\$25 before January 1 or \$30 after that) and reserve a spot with the ALA so we can purchase enough supplies for the service projects. Please visit the department website (Programs > HQ-General Info > Midwinter Conference) for details.

The national organization will mail the final 2024 dues renewal notices on February 1, 2024. The mail list will be pulled January 2, so please pay your membership dues as soon as possible

to avoid receiving a renewal notice. If you receive a renewal notice but thought your dues were paid, please contact your Unit Membership Chairman to ensure they were submitted to department. Dues are not considered "paid" until they have been **processed by Department Headquarters**. The February renewal notices will instruct members to send their dues directly to department to ensure they are processed in a timely manner. Members may also pay dues to their unit or use a debit/credit card to pay online ([www.ALAFORVeterans.org](http://www.ALAFORVeterans.org)) or by phone at 317-569-4570, Monday through Friday from 7:00 am – 3:30 pm.

American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State (ALABGS) is scheduled for June 16-21, 2024. The reservation fee of \$400/delegate is due by January 31, 2024. As you are well aware, prices for everything have escalated over the last few years, including the cost to run the ALABGS program. As a result, ALABGS is projected to have a deficit budget this year. Therefore, members should have received a solicitation letter recently requesting a donation to help offset operating expenses. Any help would be greatly appreciated! And, for those who want to do more, please check out the many volunteer opportunities at [www.alabgs.org](http://www.alabgs.org).

Unit Annual Year-End Report forms were mailed to unit presidents in October. Members are reminded to track their volunteer hours and

money spent in support of ALA programs to ensure they are included in the unit's totals. Every unit should submit a report by April 15, 2024 and acknowledge their members for all the hard work accomplished throughout the year. Department program chairmen use the information to prepare their annual reports for the national organization.

There is a lot of turmoil happening around the world. Please remember the military members who are separated from their loved ones, continue to pray for their safe return, and support their families while they are gone – especially during the upcoming holiday season.

## ALA HEADQUARTERS HOLIDAY CLOSURES:

December 25-26: Christmas  
 January 1: New Year's

We wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season and a happy 2024!

*Bonnie, Linda, Carrie, and Andrea*

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

**Margaret Larson**  
 Department Chair  
 maggiedoit@hotmail.com  
 715-410-7936

"In a time of tight budgets, difficult choices have to be made. We must make sure our very limited resources are spent on priorities. I believe we should have no higher priority than investing in our children's classrooms and in their future." – Bob Riley

This quote has taken to new heights in the River Falls community with their "Tools for Schools" event. How was "Tools for Schools" started? Many years ago, there was a crayon crisis in the River Falls community. Many students didn't have the ability to get all the school supplies needed. Volunteers started noticing this at a Tuesday night banquet which is a free church driven meal. Volunteers at that time, thirty years ago, started leaving school supplies on the tables for the kids to take. It has now morphed into this huge event that takes place the third week of August. All the children in River Falls have the opportunity, if they're in need, to participate.



What is given at this great event are school supplies that are needed specifically for their classroom. They get fitted for a new pair of shoes with socks which are donated from a local bank and a brand-new backpack, which is so important, as it needs to last the year. A local dentist hands out toothbrushes and toothpaste and the River Falls Rotary gives a new reading book at grade level for each student. After all that, each student and their family are provided with a sack lunch which contains a sandwich, a bag of chips, and a granola bar. There are also salads made up if they don't like sandwiches, fresh fruit, juice and water.

This year, "Tools for Schools" served 422 children and 100 volunteers made it all possible. This is just one way we can invest in our children's futures.

## PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

**Char Kiesling**  
 Department Chair  
 char.kiesling@gmail.com  
 920-428-5655

Past Presidents Parley (PPP) is a unique group of highly qualified ALA members who dedicate their talents, experience, and leadership abilities after their service as a President at any level of the American Legion Auxiliary to mentor other members. These Past Presidents continue to promote and foster strong leadership for the future success of our premiere organization.

Sharing wisdom and knowledge can make a difference in mentoring a member, even if for just one member. Eligibility in the PPP is simple – serve one year as president at the unit, county, district, department, or national level and pay the current year's PPP dues. Members who initially started as vice president but needed to fulfill part of the president's term due to resignation or death, are also eligible to join the PPP. Presidents serving a second term are eligible to join the PPP after completion of their first year in office.

We need to increase PPP membership to achieve the primary goal of the PPP – offering three scholarships in nursing or healthcare fields. PPP membership has been falling so the PPP increased PPP dues to \$7 per year which is still reasonable to guarantee and accomplish the purpose of the PPP. Recruit those presidents who aren't aware they are eligible and encourage them to join the PPP!!

The Mentor of the Year Award was presented for the first time at the 2023 Department Convention to Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan. The PPP values its outstanding members and their devotion to values of the PPP so please nominate the next Mentor of the Year!

It is suggested that units have a Cavalcade of Memories to preserve the history of the unit to display and share with others. If you visit Department Headquarters in Portage, look over the Past Department Presidents' Cavalcade of Memories in the Legion Museum – it's a beautiful tribute to those who served the American Legion Auxiliary wholeheartedly.



**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**Sandy Mack**  
**Department Chair**  
**smack0555@gmail.com**

The purpose of the Community Service program is to promote the American Legion Auxiliary's commitment to making our communities better places to live by supporting local service projects.

This year the focus is to promote American Legion Family Day on April 27, 2024. Posts are encouraged to open their doors to members of their community for them to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Legionnaires, Sons of the American Legion members, Legion Riders, and American Legion Auxiliary to bring awareness to the organization's "Be the One" initiative to reduce the rate of Veteran suicide. As a Legion Family, gather ideas on what your post can do. Focus on planning things for children of all ages. Spread the word on the date/time/place you have set for this. Post it on social media.

Develop a plan and implement community service activities that aid Veterans, active duty servicemembers, and their families. Promote economic security for Veterans, the military, their families, and homeless Veterans while encouraging the public to assist in this endeavor.

It is important to record your community service hours. See what works best in your unit. It may be done by documenting in

a unit folder each month or documenting on your own volunteer hour-tracking sheet. This is a wonderful way to assist in year-end reports. An hour here and an hour there adds up.

Ask yourself two simple questions and discuss them within your units: "What can we do as a group to make our programs more successful?" and "What new and creative ways can we promote our program?" Listen to all program suggestions. Do not be afraid to think out of the box and leave your comfort zone, and of course, keep doing what works best for you. Invite members from the community to assist in fundraisers. They may also be eligible to be a member. *Always* keep an application/brochure on you. If someone shows interest, sign your name and number on the brochure and ask for theirs – then do a follow up call in a week or two.

Let us show our communities who we are and what we do. Celebrate our rich history and show the pride we have in our organization.

Reach out to a Veteran and ask them how they are doing. Listen when they need to talk and if you see them struggling, let them know help is out there. Call 988 and press one, or text 838255, or visit the VA Crisis Line website.

**"BE THE ONE"**  
**Together, We Can Make a**  
**Difference!**  
**For God and Country**

**Laura Calteux**  
**Department Co-chairman**  
**414-379-2943**  
**Char Kiesling, Co-chairman**  
**920-428-5655**

We all know that our Juniors are one of the ways we look forward to growing our prized organization. In working with our young people, we find that our future is bright with enthusiastic, imaginative, and patriotic young girls. The Junior Activities program has joined ranks with our young Sons of the American Legion boys with many of the same activities and projects. It has been a successful way our Department Family works together for the good of our Veterans!

Both groups are encouraged to work the Patch Program and learn about the many programs needed in carrying out the ALA mission to help Veterans, the military, and their families. It's easy to work on the patches at any time with some help from an adult to earn the patch. Department Juniors and young SAL members, upon earning their first patch, will receive a backpack where they can attach their patches. The patches are in four levels according to the grade level of the member, with a new Purple level for Juniors that are age 3 – kindergarten. Please visit the department website to review the patch qualifications.



**JUNIOR ACTIVITIES**

A recent campout for the Juniors Fall Conference was held at the 500+ acre Turning Rivers Youth Camp near Campbellsport and included SAL, moms, and even some grandmas who are real troopers! This is also Camp Hometown Heroes and is a beautiful facility. Those present learned what the camp does for our military children, Veterans, and military. There were crafts, cooking by fireside, hiking and a scavenger hunt. Cabins were amazing and so well equipped for children. All this was an immense success due to the assistance of a very devoted, special ALA member, Past Department Historian Sue Turowski, and her husband Bill, who volunteered to be the counselors for our SAL. All young campers received an ALF dog for themselves and one to present to a military child in their school, etc. – compliments of the SAL. This was a solemn promise made by each one and they need to report back to Sue to be recorded.

Thank you, President Maggie for your visit in the rain, and thank you, Sue and Bill, for all your efforts! We know you couldn't prevent the rain on Saturday, but hardy souls prevailed. The awesome colors of fall more than made up for the weather.

Also, congratulations to Rylee Turowski, Junior member of Grafton Unit 355, for winning the National Junior T-shirt design contest! Juniors at national meetings will be wearing her T-shirt.

Hopefully these amazing adventures will encourage more junior members to become active and attend the future spring conference ... plans are already underway!



**WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY STATE BOWLING ASSOCIATION**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> NINE PIN TAP TOURNAMENT (48<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL TOURNAMENT)**  
**April 6 & 7 / April 13 & 14, 2024**

100% Prize Fee Returned Sports Page Bowl  
 75% Handicap – 200 Scratch 1174 W Broadway Avenue  
 Medford WI 54451

The bowlers listed below enter the specified contest(s) at the annual WALASBA Tournament and hereby agree to comply in all respects with the rules of said tournament. The individual members are bona fide 2024 members of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary.

**WALASBA IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING SUBSTITUTES!**

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit/City/Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate what Events bowler is entering:

Team (Will be bowled on Sunday)	Team \$31/Person
1. _____	Y N
2. _____	Y N
3. _____	Y N
4. _____	Y N

All doubles and singles will be bowled on Saturday (please indicate your desired time) and all Teams will bowl on Sunday.

**DOUBLES/SINGLES:**  
 Saturday: April 6 11am Saturday: April 6 2pm  
 Saturday: April 13 11am Saturday: April 13 2pm

**TEAM:**  
 Sunday: April 7 9am OR Sunday April 14 9am

Doubles and Singles (will be bowled on Saturday)	Doubles \$31/Person	Singles \$31.00	All Events (if you want to enter all Events) \$3.00/Person
1. _____	Y N	Y N	Y N
2. _____	Y N	Y N	Y N
1. _____	Y N	Y N	Y N
2. _____	Y N	Y N	Y N

Bowling	\$15.75
Prize	\$ 7.75
Expense	\$ 7.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$31.00/Person/Event</b>

Please print complete address & phone # where mail will receive immediate attention

When two or more teams are inter-bowling for doubles partners, please be sure to send your entries together.

Captain: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Complete Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (City/State/Zip)

**OFFICIAL USE ONLY:**

TEAM \_\_\_\_\_ DBLS \_\_\_\_\_ SINGLES \_\_\_\_\_  
 ALL EVENTS \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL PAID \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ (Revised 10-2023)  
 NOTE: TOURNAMENT RULES ARE POSTED ON THE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE (www.amlegionauxwi.org)

MILWAUKEE COUNTY CONFERENCE OF UNITS  
 Invites all Legion Family Members and Guests



**The 95th Annual George Washington Luncheon**  
**Presidents Day**  
**Monday, February 19, 2024**



**Meyers Family Restaurant**  
**4260 S 76th Street, Greenfield, WI**  
**Social Hour: 11 AM • Opening Ceremonies: 11:45 AM • Lunch: Noon**  
**Cost is \$30.00 per person**

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

For information contact Laura Calteux, 414-379-2943

Deadline for reservations is February 10, 2024

Detach here and return lower portion

**GEORGE WASHINGTON LUNCHEON REGISTRATION**

UNIT NAME & NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME OF EACH PERSON ATTENDING: Auxiliary, Legion, SAL, Guest  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIT CONTACT & PHONE**  
**AMOUNT ENCLOSED: # OF RESERVATIONS \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30.00 = \_\_\_\_\_**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MCCU  
 SEND TO: Laura Calteux, 7012 W Squire Ave, Greenfield, WI 53220  
**Reservation deadline: FEBRUARY 10, 2024 —NO WALKINS!!**



# ALA UNIT 215 SUPPORTS ZABLOCKI VAMC



Members of Pardeeville Unit 215 presented a check to Department Secretary Bonnie Dorniak for \$1,000 to support the women's programs at Zablocki VA Medical Center. Pictured (left to right): Linda Cason, Lauren Lueck, Dixie Roe, Bobbie Goodman, Bonnie Dorniak, Betty Telvick, Mary Soderlund, and Nancy Borish.

## QUILT PRESENTATIONS



The Columbia County Council, American Legion Auxiliary, along with the Quilts of Valor Foundation, presented Robert Adams, oldest active member of American Legion Post 208 in Rio, WI, with a quilt on October 14. Pictured: Bob Adams & Barbara Sigmund.

## MEMORIALS



### ALA UNIT 384

ABOVE: Unit 384 ALA members set up a Flag Garden in front of the Legion Post in Kewaskum. The 450 12x18 flags are in memory of deceased service and family members. Students in the 6th to 8th Grade Builders Club of Kewaskum Middle School were invited to help put up and remove the flags for Memorial Day, Flag Day and Independence Day.

### ALA UNIT 447

AT RIGHT: A Veterans memorial bench was installed at the Viola Cemetery. This special memorial was donated by ALA Unit 447. It was made possible by memorial gifts given in honor of deceased ALA members Arlene Gilman, Betty Wheeler, Ione Williams, Eva Carmack, Jean Pellet, Lorraine White, Ruth Spangler, Roxanne Hoke, Louise Bender, Naomi Sanford, Lillian Geary, Orla Simonson, Golda Cutler, the estate of Ray Sime, and through the dedication and donations by ALA members.



Haugen Unit 540 held their annual fundraising event during Haugen Fun Days, August 12 and 13. Raffle baskets, kolaches, root beer floats, cookies, and bingo were highlighted, as well as Unit 540 sponsoring the Quilts of Valor program with 13 recipients receiving quilts.



Unit 239 of Tigerton, WI presented a lap quilt to Chief Warrant Officer III Micah Couillard while he was on leave in Wisconsin. Micah has been in the U.S. Marine Corps for 20 years and recently reenlisted. THANK YOU for your service, Micah! Pictured (l-r): Micah's wife Yuki, son Phillip, Unit 239 President Virginia Kauffman, Chief Warrant Officer III Micah Couillard, and son Alexander.



## OTHER NEWS



Therapy dolls can have a remarkable effect on individuals with Alzheimer's and related dementias. The simple act of cuddling a baby doll is calming and can help reestablish nurturing feelings, provide a sense of purpose, express emotions, and bring joy and comfort for men and women living with dementia symptoms. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Tomah VA for making this donation possible. Pictured: Brittany Kelly, CTRS-Geriatrics, CDP with Tomah ALA Hospital Representative Helene Stein.

## ALA UNIT 469: MARATHON LABOR DAY



Alois Dreikosen ALA Unit 469 in Marathon assists American Legion Post #469 in sponsoring the annual Labor Day celebration. This has been an annual event since 1957 to promote the community, good citizenship, American patriotism, camaraderie and fun. Pictured: Unit President Betty Blume with Uncle Sam (Brent Bundgaard, a teacher in the Bloomer School District).

## ALA UNIT 196: LUCKY DUCKY VETERANS RIVER RACE



As Sherri Ritz, member of Delafield ALA Unit 196 and organizer of the 4th annual Lucky Ducky Veterans River Race said, the event was a "SpecQuackular" success. The race consisted of 2,520 numbered rubber ducks paddling down the Bark River along the Veterans Memorial Riverwalk in Delafield. Auxiliary members sold ducks to help raise a generous \$8,460. Sweepers were staged along the river with brooms to free any of the ducks that got hung up on rocks or branches. At the finish line, all the ducks were captured and removed from the river until next year's race. The top five ducklings received awards and the proceeds were distributed to Veterans causes and the Delafield American Legion Building Fund.

### SEPTEMBER 2023 DAILY SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Day	Prize	Winner	City
1	\$15	Delores Lien	Webster
2	\$15	Bonnie Torbeck	Cecil
3	\$25	Janet Born	Shawano
4	\$15	Sharon Bannach	Cedar Grove
5	\$15	Ann Loss	Scottsdale, AZ
6	\$15	Rochelle Andress	Eleva
7	\$15	Karen LaMere	Belleville
8	\$15	Vicki Anderson	Richland Center
9	\$15	Kathy Wollmer	David City, NE
10	\$25	Margie Bausch	McFarland
11	\$15	Donna Landwehr	Sheboygan
12	\$15	Anne Koppelberger	Kewaskum
13	\$15	Casey Berndt	West Allis
14	\$15	Mary Schaller	West Salem
15	\$15	Mary Hampton	Spring Valley
16	\$15	Ginger Groshek	Stevens Point
17	\$25	Lorraine Boden	Hartford
18	\$500	Vonnie Clemens	Dane
19	\$15	Phyllis Chaffer	Elmhurst, IL
20	\$15	Ann Brunner	Kewaunee
21	\$15	Susan Luoma	Port Wing
22	\$15	Kelly Peterson	Bangor
23	\$15	Diane Omdahl	Green Bay
24	\$25	Jason Badtke	Union Grove
25	\$15	Marilyn Fahrney	Hollandale
26	\$15	Raymona Davis	Hammond
27	\$15	Mary Jane Lapacz	Mountain
28	\$15	Janet Scharnweber	Port Washington
29	\$15	Steve Isensee	Boyd
30	\$15	Brayden Stobb	Reeseville

### OCTOBER 2023 DAILY SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Day	Prize	Winner	City
1	\$25	Lois Rehse	Cibolo, TX
2	\$15	Karen Badtke	Mt Pleasant
3	\$15	Patti Holshouser	Milford, OH
4	\$15	Irene Clausen	Cedarburg
5	\$15	Joann Watkins	Rio
6	\$15	Cheryl Anderson-Hustad	Osceola
7	\$15	Carla Corbin	Onalaska
8	\$25	Vicky Larson	Soldiers Grove
9	\$15	Dale Henning	Janesville
10	\$15	Teri Curtis	Omro
11	\$15	Audra Martine	Holmen
12	\$15	Katherine Rowan	Sparta
13	\$500	Sharlene Kurth	Drummond
14	\$15	Diane MacDonald	Madison
15	\$25	Jean Booth	Downing
16	\$15	Marge Taylor	Holmen
17	\$15	Mary Fairchild	Appleton
18	\$15	Donna Henkel	Sparta
19	\$15	Barb Waite	Eau Claire
20	\$15	Kathryn Peck	Germantown
21	\$15	Arlene Liebenstein	Grafton
22	\$25	Noel Niehausen	Fort Atkinson
23	\$15	Linda Smart	Butternut
24	\$15	Ann Sprain	Sparta
25	\$15	Mary Jane Clemens	Lodi
26	\$15	Faye Crawford	Stoughton
27	\$15	Marjorie Carlson	Mosinee
28	\$15	Maureen Anderson	Lanesboro, MN
29	\$25	Kathy Ziegler	Plymouth
30	\$15	Debora Mussel	Mountain
31	\$15	Karen Ayers	Stoughton





**Karl Stuvengen**  
Department  
Commander

★★★★ DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ★★★★★

**COMRADESHIP**

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And never be brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And auld lang syne?*

*For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne,  
We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.*

*And surely ye'll be your pint-stoup!  
And surely, I'll be tmine!  
And we'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.*

*For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne,  
We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.*

These words were penned by Scottish poet Robert Burns in 1788. Music journalist and author Daniel Ross writes: "The most accurate plain English interpretation of Auld Lang Syne's famous title is 'Old long since', or 'For the sake of old times'."

I think this song has a very personal meaning to Veterans. Our

relationships with those whom also served are special. They are long-lasting and can be picked up right where we left off months, years, even decades later. As the song alludes to, "old friends catching up over a drink, a pint-stoup, if you will, their friendship having been long and occasionally distant."

This is one of the most wonderful aspects of my membership in The American Legion. The opportunity to commiserate with my comrades is precious, and distance and time have no bearing on these friendships. We look forward to renewing our bond with our fellow Veterans, at Legion meetings and other events at every level.

This also demonstrates the effectiveness of Buddy Checks. Veterans may feel a sense of loneliness. They may have friends, but those who never served will never understand the bond that Veterans share. This is why it's so important to make that contact. Nothing will brighten the day of a fellow comrade more than hearing from someone who genuinely cares about how they are doing.

This connection is also a powerful recruiting tool. We can talk programs, community, or Americanism, but it's what we do for our fellow Veterans that is most important. It's that understanding that says "we belong together".

So, as we begin 2024, I urge you to BE THE ONE to keep in contact with all our comrades. Sell this most important benefit of membership in The American Legion by your deeds. Nothing will warm your heart more, than when another Veteran says "Thanks for listening, thanks for caring. It's nice to know I'm not alone."

For *Auld Lang Syne*.



**Allen Watry**  
SAL Detachment  
Commander

★★★★ SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER ★★★★★

Hello Wisconsin American Legion Family! Fall Conferences are now officially completed. The last two months have been very busy, but also very rewarding for myself. It was a pleasure and honor to be able to interact with so many different Post/Squadrons/Units over the last 2 months. Thank you to everyone for the awesome hospitality and discussions.

Two weekends ago, while playing sheepshead with some of my friends, I was asked why I was doing all this traveling and why was "this Legion thing" is so important to me. This provided me the opportunity to talk about my "2 Whys".

My first "Why" is my father, the late Charles Watry. He was part of the Air Force's 4130 Strategic Wing at Bergstrom, TX supporting the B52s and their mission of being a nuclear deterrent. I always admired how his passion for our Country would come out when he talked about BUFF and his Service memories. It was that pride and passion which drew him to be an active Legion member. It was also that pride and passion that

caused me to become a member of the Sons of The American Legion and American Legion Riders.

My second "Why" is my Great Uncle Fr. James Ernster who is a WWII Army Veteran. His story is a very powerful one, escaping death twice during his service. In the second near death incident, he was hit by shrapnel at the Battle of the Bulge. Fortunately, the prayer book/container he kept in his breast pocket deflected the shrapnel and saved his life. It was at that point he vowed to become a priest if he survived the war, which he did. You can find his story by doing a google search of "Fr James Ernster" to read more about his life and experiences.

So, my request, as we all enter this holiday season, is for everyone to find some time to think about "Your Why". Why is the Legion Family important to you? And how might you take that "Why" and turn it into action during the Holiday Season? A time which can be very stressful and painful for many of our Veterans, active military, and their families.

Happy Holidays, and for God and Country,  
Commander Watry



**Corey Doehrmann**  
State Director  
American Legion  
Riders Association

★★★★ LEGION RIDERS ★★★★★

As I write this article, the riding season for most Wisconsin Legion Riders is rapidly ending. Our bikes will be put in storage to protect them from the harsh Wisconsin winter. Then for a lot of us, just like you, the focus will shift to the holiday season. We will be planning to spend time with families and enjoy all that this wonderful season brings. However, some of the Veterans in our communities and even in our local posts don't have the same outlook on the holidays. For a variety of reasons, this time of year can be especially tough for them. What are YOU doing at the local level to reach these Veterans and ensure they feel the support they need during this time of year. Most posts and some Legion Rider districts have just completed buddy checks, which is a great program to reconnect with members who we don't see on a regular basis and make sure all is well. If you identified someone during buddy checks that makes you concerned, don't wait until six months or another year has passed before reaching out to them again. Making another call during this

cold winter holiday season could be just the light to brighten their day. Invite them to a Holiday Dinner at your post or any other function you have going on. Offer to pick them up if getting around is challenging for them during the winter months. The camaraderie is one of the things that is so great in the American Legion Family and by looking out for each other we can ensure others know how much we care about them and want to ensure they stay safe. Remember the phone number 988 is available to those who are in crisis. It is answered 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

During Midwinter, I along with other Legion Family members will be participating in Freezin' for a Reason to raise money for Veterans in crisis. Please support me in this endeavor. Check donations made out to the 'American Legion Foundation' can be mailed to N172W20593 Westfield Dr, Jackson, WI 53037 or electronic donations can be sent via Venmo @ Stephenie-Doehrmann.

If you have any questions about the Wisconsin Legion Riders don't hesitate to contact me: Corey Doehrmann/State Director, cell 262-305-0305 or email at alrawi.director@gmail.com. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



**Maggie Geiger**  
Department  
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Christmas Gift Shop program provides gifts to family members of hospitalized Veterans at no cost to the Veteran. The Gift Shop Supervisor develops a catalog of items for the Veterans to choose from and volunteers wrap, box, label and ship the orders to the family members. We visited with Veterans at the Wisconsin Veterans Home-Union Grove and had the honor of helping them choose gifts for their families. The Veterans at the facility were astonished that they were able to select items and many times asked how much they owed. We just told them this is a way the ALA is able to give back to those who gave of themselves so we enjoy our freedom today.

During our visit, I met Kathrine "Kioko" Anderson. Kioko was 12 years old when she and her brother were sitting on a hill that overlooked the naval ships moored at Pearl Harbor. The date was December 7, 1941. They watched as Pearl Harbor was being bombed. She said she and her brother didn't think much of what was going on because maneuvers had been happening during the previous weeks. Kioko said all of a sudden, she realized something was very wrong so she and her brother ran back home. As they were running, a Japanese plane was above them. The pilot tilted its wings back and forth, which is a form of saying "we are here." From that moment Kioko was determined to join the military.

Kioko wanted to become a Marine, and that she did. Knowing that her height might be an issue, she teased up her hair and passed the height restriction! Kioko, was the first woman to enter the military from the state of Hawaii. Basic training was held in San Diego and a film crew followed her around during basic training. The family has been trying to get their hands on the film. I asked her to let me know if they do so we can have a look. I asked Kioko if her family was sent to any of the Japanese camps known as "relocation camps." Only her state-side family members were sent to the camps.

Because of your generosity, 70 Veterans at Union Grove will have presents for their loved ones. There are other Veterans facilities that will be visited and Veterans will be able to shop for their families for Christmas as well – more Veterans to visit and many more stories to be told!

It is through your continued membership in the ALA, personal donations, and precious time working the ALA programs that makes this all possible.

Thank you for *Enhancing the lives of our Veterans, Military and their families One Day at a Time.*

I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and many blessings in 2024.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**LEGION FAMILY TESTIMONIAL**

**MAY | 18<sup>TH</sup> | 2024**

LASURE'S BANQUET & CATERING  
3125 S. WASHBURN ST, OSHKOSH, WI 54904