POST 416 INFORMATIONAL GUIDE 2025-2026

Post Officers

Commander	Ed King
Adjutant	Tim Bellis
Assistant Adjutant	David Pier
Finance Officer	Bob Vanslow
1st Vice Commander	Ted Gruzynski
2nd Vice Commander	Gary Parker
3rd Vice Commander	Rob Hamby
Service Officer	Tim Baranzyk
Asst. Service Officer	Bob Zoland
Chaplin (Deacon)	Ted Gruzynski
Sgt. At Arms	Lyle Jackson
Sgt. At Arms	Jerry White
Historian	Tim Baranzyk
Capt. Honor Guard	Bob Zoland
1st Lt. Honor Guard	Bob Vanslow
2nd Lt. Honor Guard	Ed King

Meetings

Exec. Board
1st Tuesday of month
7:00 PM

Honor Guard
2nd Thursday of month
Jan, March, May
June, Sept, Nov
6:30pm in Legion Hall

General Membership
3rd Thursday of month
except July and August
7:00pm in Legion Hall

Auxillary Officers

President	Kathy Baranzyk
1st Vice President	Carol Stephany
2nd Vice President	Jacki Tamsett
Secretary	Laura Calteux
Treasurer	Laura Calteux
Chaplain	Carrie Kleppin
Historian	Laura Calteux
Sgt. At Arms	Pat Kadlec

Auxiliary
3rd Thursday of month
except July and August
7:00pm in Auxiliary Room

SAL Officers

Commander	Tim Bellis
Adjutant	Terry Barrington

SAL
2nd Monday
7:00pm in Squad Room

greendalepost416.org/

Office - 6351 West Grange Avenue, Greendale WI 53129 USA (414) 421-3371

*2/25 Google Sheets

COMMANDER'S REPORT

Transparency, Service, Sustainability

The brief pause to assess, identify the source of problems and make necessary corrections to the Greendale Post 416 Newsletter was not long enough apparently. I apologize for the incorrect information page and the missing meeting and events dates on the March Newsletter .
Follow up on details of the Post Culture.
I believe we are at a critical point in deciding the way forward for the future of our Post. I have given much thought to what our Post 416 Culture is. It is complex, it cannot be said that it is either good or bad, it is a compilation of our members' values.

I believe Conscience and Character are the foundations that form our Culture. Most of us were brought up in a Faith. All served in a branch of the military where Core Values are taught . We all pledge allegiance to the Flag; we all repeat the Preamble at each meeting. Those who are elected to office take an Oath to perform their duties, that is all good - It is positive so there is an assumption of trust. Whoever wants to run for office is trusted and voted in or unopposed and by default takes the Office. Do we deserve that trust? Are we good stewards? When that trust is broken it is a hard fall and difficult to get back.
That is 1 Part of what we bring to forming our Culture.

In the past there has been an extreme lack of transparency because of virtually no oversight and a mindset of don't rock the boat. That is the other side of our Post Culture. As an example, we have a member with an extensive background in Banking and as a member of the Executive Committee, he offered to help with finances after which he was sent emails by the Adjutant and Bingo Chairman to "stay in your own lane".

As I have served as 3rd Vice and now Commander, I have found we only know what is shared, and a lot has not been shared in the past. In a Post of our size a lot can be hidden if leadership
lacks Conscience and Character or an unwillingness to share information for whatever reason.

If we are to change our Culture our Hearts and Minds need to be open. If Executive Committee members Hearts and Minds are not open, then to change our Post's Culture we need to change Leadership. - It will be up to you to decide.

My 36 years Military experience has taught me to resolve problems or issues at the

lowest level possible. I have tried unsuccessfully to resolve what I see as problems 1 on 1 with individuals, I have taken the issues to the next level and again was unsuccessful in resolving the issue with the Executive Committee because there are some of the old guard that refuse to hold individuals accountable. I brought some of the issues up at the March General Membership meeting, so the membership is informed when it comes to voting and determining the future direction of the Post.

Because of lack of control and a resistance to opening the Financial Books for oversight in past administrations, my administration has found that taxes had not been filed for 2 years, putting us in a situation of coming close to losing our Tax-exempt status. We have gotten 2023 taxes filed now which have cost us $11,000 in late filing fees and $5,000 in accounting fees. We still are working to clean up the books and file 2024 Taxes.

We have an Adjutant that has refused to issue keys for the building to my officers, refused to share security codes with the Commander and refused to issue a copy of the Post By-Laws to name a few issues. He has also unapologetically treated himself and 3 others to $280 meal on the Post charge card and he says he does not remember who they were. I share this information with you so that you can make an informed decision on who you are voting for and what direction you want the Post to go.

There are many more issues too many to have in this Newsletter. I will have them posted on the Post's website.

I want to leave you with what is positive at the Post, though it has been painfully slow and just plain Painful and Frustrating.

We have accomplished a great deal despite defiance and lack of support by some.

Finances
Taxes Filed
Books being corrected and organized
Bills paid on time - Except when not forward to the Finance Officer
Unused services canceled

Membership
Accurate numbers
2nd Buddy Check Reaching 400 + members to start soon

General
Working to Update By-Laws
Working with Ray and Dot's and Attorneys to ensure a smooth transfer of the business and updating the lease
Continuity Files in progress
Insurance coverage reviewed and updated
Proper Licenses in progress
Successful Americanism Program
Successful Adopt a Vet Program
Capital improvements being made or planned for - Portico and Roof

Sponsoring and participating Badger Boys State and Badger Girls State programs
Replace G.I. Joe

Thank you for your service.

Air Force Core Values, values for us all to emulate.

Integrity First
Service Before Self
Excellence in All We Do

Ed King

1st VICE COMMANDER

I am pleased to announce that we have 425 paid members. In the last 30 days we have added three transfers and one new (31-year-old!!) member to the Legion. Now if only we could get more of our members to a meeting that would be a blessing. While we have tried to encourage this in articles in the newsletter, letters to some 150 members and Buddy checks (over 300 phone calls) there has not been an appreciable increase in meeting attendance…15-20! Well at the May meeting (May 21 @ 7:00) we will have elections for the coming Legion year. We need your presence AND willingness to consider becoming an officer of the post. I know many of you do not know what each position does….we will explain it at that meeting before names are brought forward. This is probably one of the most, if not the most important election year we have had in a long time. As you have heard from our Commander, this was a particularly difficult year for the incoming officers. We did not get a lot of cooperation and had to work on many areas of the post that needed attention, not the least of them being delinquent tax filings. We have made some progress, but it has been slow. Our new France Officer has done a very good job in bringing the post forward. We have a new accountant and now have a law firm that helps us on matters as they need our attention. Our building and grounds person, John Southern, has been looking at the areas that will need attention going forward (not done in the past).

Now we need your help…I have heard from people that they want us to do things to help Vets….great…but we need your input to surface those areas. We need your physical presence at meetings to discuss

these areas. We need you to say yes and run for one of the officer positions. You will not be doing this on your own. We will help you learn your area…much as we had to last year. It is time to look at your membership as more than writing a $40 check….we need your presence and willingness to get involved. We need you….our Vets need you. PLEASE COME MAY 19TH. Thank you.

Ted (414) 852-6844. tgurzynski@wi.rr.com

3rd VICE COMMANDER

Hello all.

Apparently, I was a little premature in my expression of winter in the last newsletter. But I am quite confident that I can now say goodbye to winter. Now we are in the season of waiting for spring to really arrive. Be patient, it will come.

Nothing new to report. The Americanism team did present to Highland View Elementary School in March. I thought it was a fun presentation, and I think the kids enjoyed it. I am sure the teachers did. There are no presentations scheduled for April. but we will have two schools and one assisted living center presentations scheduled for May.

I was looking for something prophetic to say but couldn't find one. I will say that I did read the February issue of The American Legion magazine and was quite moved by the article of the speeches of George Washington. If you have not read it yet, please do so.

Come to the meeting on April 16 to get updated.

Remember, we are here to serve, and our oath never ends.

Rob Hamby ✌

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As we come into Spring, that beautiful time of year when the Lord blesses us with "new life", The grass gets green, the trees are budding and the flowers bring life to the drabness of winter…I share these words.

God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, sun without rain, BUT He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light for the

way…Remember this my friend….If God brings you to it, He WILL bring you through it.

This is what faith is all about…..HOPE

Blessings to all, Deacon Ted

ADJUTANT

It's that time of the year with spring in the air and we are still setting at home and watching tv. When was the last time you step foot inside the post? Don't you think it's time to see how we have changed things inside? It might be physical potation but it's how things are inside. We listen for about fifteen minutes from our Commander on his past year in office. This post is not a political stand; I give him credit on things that need to be changed and looked at in a different way .

With nomination of officers, it's up to you to find the right people for each position from the Commander, our different Vice chairs, Adjutant , Chaplain ,Finance officer, Service officer, Judge Advocate, Historian, Sgt. at arms, we have not had a Judge Advocate for 2 years, WE Need One. We cannot have one person be the judge and jury over the post.

On a personal note, I would like to wish everyone a HAPPY EASTER.

Tim Bellis

SERVICE OFFICER

The last several weeks have been very busy. We managed to donate over 700 pounds of clothing, 80 pairs of socks, various jackets, sleeping materials to homeless vets and their families; attended a fundraiser with the legion post in Union Grove for needed support; have been setting up a meditation garden at Shangri- LA with additional kneelers for those who want to use them; worked with students on historical ideas- Iwo Jima, PTSD; counseled a vet with mental health concerns; donated 17 flags of various sizes to veteran families; assisted post members with wheel chairs; and began preparations in technology for A I, drones, underwater robs, and don't forget magnetic fishing. Made calls to senior members in nursing homes who can't travel to meetings.

Tim Baranzyk

HONOR GUARD

Our Mission "Honoring our Vets" our mission statement however we are active in many aspects of the community. Events that are on the horizon are Memorial Day, Flag disposal ceremony, 4th of July Parade and the Greenfield Rec. Dept.

A summary of all our activities, mileage, and time was compiled by our Mr. Jim Cook, it is

truly appreciated. Thank You Jim. Copies are available in the squad room.

We are saddened by the passing of Jerry Kassel's father. We will do the honors when they are scheduled. Our condolences to him and his family.

We have election of officers next month, and your input is appreciated, please consider transparency, sharing concerns and team spirit. They are vital for our future as a post.

In closing wishing you and your family Happy Easter. Excess candy is always appreciated in the squad room.

Proud to Serve as your Captain

Bob Zolandz Semper FI

HISTORIAN

Remember articles submitted need explanations of who, what, when, where, and purpose of submission. Dates are critical. Time is running out very quickly. Deadline - second weekend in May.

Tim Baranzyk

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings.

Just a reminder at April's Membership Meeting we will be nominating Officers for 2026-2027, if you're interested let me know.

May 18th we will have another Culver's Share Night if you would like to volunteer let Carol Stephany know. We will be meeting at the post April 17th to assemble the raffle baskets for our Spaghetti Dinner from 9-3.

We will be donating gift baskets again this year at the cost of $200, for Diva Day. Jen volunteered to purchase products to make three baskets.

Our Spaghetti Dinner is April 25th, I will have spaghetti noodles to hand out for those who would like to make them for our Spaghetti dinner at our Membership Meeting in April. We also are looking for volunteers to make desserts.

Our next Executive Board Meeting is April 8th at 6:30pm at the post. Membership Meeting April 16th 7pm at the post.

Sincerely,
Kathy

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Auxiliary Membership

Welcome to our newest members, Connie S. and Carol K.!

Our Unit 416 is getting very close to achieving our 2026 membership goal of 101. Our District 4 is in first place in the state, so we need to do our part to keep it that way. More importantly, we want to grow our organization with enthusiastically involved members. Do you have a mother, sister, daughter, granddaughter or friend who qualifies for membership? Please consider gifting them a 2026 membership to honor their veteran. Applications are available at the Post, online at the ALA website, amlegionauxwi.org, or from me. Be an ambassador for our Unit 416 whenever the opportunity arises. You never know when you might meet a potential new member!

We will be active in the community at the Greenfield Farmers Market this summer, a CULVERS Share Night on May 18th, as well as other projects in development.
Please attend our annual Spaghetti Dinner and raffle fundraiser on April 25 at the Post and bring your family and friends. This is a great opportunity to provide membership support! Thank you.

Carol Stephany
First Vice President
4148032431

GREENDALE VETERANS MEMORIAL

Service for Memorial Day starts at 10am, at the Memorial. Presentation of Colors - usually scouts line the walkway leading to the Memorial, followed by the 416 Honor Guard; Pledge of Allegiance, Opening Prayer by the Post Chaplain; Speakers; Reading of Names; Possible wreath presentation; Closing Prayer; Military Honors followed by Taps.

Tim Baranzyk, President

If you want to put an article in the next newsletter, please email to:
lauracalteux@yahoo.com

Deadline April 16th, 2026