



BADGER & WISCONSIN VOL 102 #3 | JUNE 2025



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

IT'S A FAMILY THING

Green Bay hosts 106th Department Convention All Legion Family Members Welcome, July 16-20

Join the Legion Family for the 106th Department Convention July 16–20, 2025 at the Hyatt/KI Center, 333 Main Street, Green Bay, WI 54301. All Legion Family members are welcome and encouraged to attend. **THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!**

■ Please see Page 4 for the Convention Registration Form.

Wednesday, July 16, 2025 is move in and setup day, with the Membership Committee and Wisconsin American Legion Foundation meeting in the afternoon. **NEW** this year, join Commander Jim, President Becky, Detachment Commander Allen and Riders Director Corey for the Legion Family Testimonial. This is a separate registration and will be coming soon.

Thursday, July 17, 2025 will begin with all Department Committees meeting throughout the morning, Wisconsin American Legion College Alumni Association meeting in the afternoon followed by the Department Executive Committee meeting at 4 p.m.



During the Past Commander's Club party on Saturday evening, **Daddy Ds Production** will perform, so get out your '50s gear and dancing shoes for a night to remember.

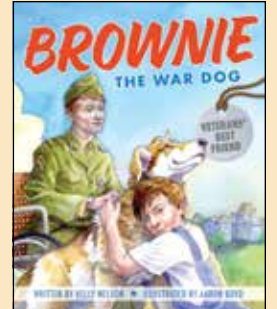
Friday, July 18, 2025 begins with the District Caucuses at 7:30 a.m. At 9 a.m. the opening ceremonies will officially kick off the 106th Department Convention. The session will include many guest speakers and awards such as our Law & Order, Firefighter, EMT and more. There will be a Blood Drive from 9 a.m. –2 p.m. The evening will

have you visiting with the candidates for office at their hospitality rooms and networking with your fellow Veterans. **Saturday, July 19, 2025** will begin with voting on the Leadership for 2025/2026. After voting, join us for another exciting General Session.

SEE A FAMILY THING, PAGE 4

CONVENTION SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

KELLY NELSON



Kelly has loved true animal stories ever since she was a little girl. *Brownie the War Dog* is her first book, inspired by a visit to the Veterans Home at King to seek care for her father, a Veteran of the Korean War. Kelly lives in Wisconsin with her husband, Jason; children, James and Brooke; dogs, Ladybug, Mabel, and ZuZu; and cat, Lenny.

JOHN ARMBRUSTER



John is the author of *Tailspin*. *Tailspin* is the true story of a WWII Tail Gunner who survived a four-mile fall without a parachute only to land in Nazi hands. Come hear about American tail gunner, Gene Moran's harrowing story of survival from the fall, and seventeen months as a POW in occupied Europe, including the infamous "Hell Ship" and European Death March.

JOHN MAINO

John is a legendary sportscaster in Green Bay who has reported from the front lines in Afghanistan. He has written several books on his experiences.



KEVIN HERMENING



Wausau's Kevin Hermening was a 20-year-old Marine security guard when he became the youngest hostage of the 52 Americans held captive in Iran from November 4, 1979 to January 20, 1981. Come hear about his experience and his life today.

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Sheri Hicks

2024-25 Department Officers
Department Commander
Jim Johnson

Department Vice Commanders
**Nathan Bond
Jerry Hook
Phil Green
Debbie Thomas**

Department Adjutant
Julie Muhle

Department Chaplain
Dennis Jaeger

Historian
Michelle Adams

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

Service Officer - **James Fialkowski**
NECman - **Robert Shappell**
Alternate NECman - **Karl Stuvengen**
Judge Advocate - **Nicholas Lange**

District Commanders
**1st – Candace Rothering
2nd – Charlie Young
3rd – Dan O'Brien
4th – Steve Kohnke
5th – Craig Ellis
6th – Dave Steinert
7th – Chet Faith
8th – Adam Klapperich
9th – Terry McNulty
10th – Rita Rindahl
11th – Gerry Johnson
12th – James Woody**

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
Becky Mueller, 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

THE QUIET MOMENTS AT BADGER BOYS STATE

By Zac Dickhut

June has arrived, meaning Badger Boys State is arriving, too! We look forward to our week with Wisconsin’s bright young minds every year, where we teach them about our republican form of government and the principles of democracy that anchor it. The counseling staff aren’t the only teachers, though. In fact, most of the real learning likely occurs outside the structures of the program. It happens in the quiet moments at Boys State.

Sure, the days are jam-packed with caucuses, conventions, rallies, classes, meals, and sports, but there are numerous times throughout the day where small conversations can happen. With how quickly you get to know the folks around you, a chance for deeper and more meaningful conversation arises within a day or two.

Throughout the week, Legionnaires who visit and volunteers have some opportunities to chat with the citizens about their service, either in the military, the American Legion, or to their communities in other ways. Sometimes these are talks in groups of citizens, but more often a curious citizen will strike up a conversation.

It’s been mentioned in this column before, but it’s important to note that the number of young people who attend Boys State with an immediate family member in the military is far



lower than it was at the beginning of this century. While virtually every citizen who attends has met a former servicemember, not as many get a chance to have an in-depth conversation with someone who served. This is a week that affords great opportunities to our citizens. Although most of those opportunities involve giving a speech, playing a sport, or

campaigning for office, it also affords us all the space for conversation.

Conversations can be revealing, humbling, eye-opening, perspective-altering, and life-changing. They happen in the quiet moments on campus during the week between all sorts of people who are here. Many of the most impactful chats happen when Legionnaire has the chance to sit with

our BBS citizens—all of whom were born after 9/11. These aren’t chats about war or politics, but chats about service, sacrifice, patriotism, and the future. The catalyst of inspiring service in our citizens at Boys State has always been in the voices of the Legionnaires who help create those quiet moments. We invite you to be one of them.



LEFT: Oratorical Winner Peter Bott and Department Oratorical Chair Robert Stone. RIGHT: SAL Detachment Commander Allen Watry, Department Auxiliary President Becky Mueller, 2nd place winner Wyatt Ehrhardt representing the 3rd District, Winner Peter Bott representing the 1st District, 3rd place winner Haley Hubert representing the 2nd District, Department Commander Jim Johnson, Department Oratorical Chair Robert Stone.

2025 ORATORICAL CONTEST WINNER WILL REPRESENT WISCONSIN AT NATIONAL CONTEST

Peter Bott, a homeschooled student from Nashotah, won the Wisconsin American Legion’s 88th Annual High School Oratorical Contest on March 29 at Ripon College. Peter won the post, county, district, regional, and state contests. Peter’s prepared oration is titled Equity vs. Equality in the Constitution.

The Edwin L. Jones Post 91 in Oconomowoc sponsored Peter. Post 91 is very proud of Peter’s accomplishment, especially because he is just a

high school freshman. Peter won against older more experienced speakers.

The 2025 Regional and State Contest at Ripon College was well attended due to the new process of having alternate contestants fill in for districts who did not have a contestant for the Regional contests. This gave scholarship opportunity to more students and more competition to reach the finals contest.

Peter will be attending the National Oratorical

contest in Hillsdale Michigan representing the Edwin L. Jones Post 91 of Oconomowoc, Waukesha County, the 1st District and the state of Wisconsin. The contest will be held at Hillsdale College May 16–18, 2025.

The assigned topics, rules and date for the 89th Annual High School Oratorical Regionals and Finals contest will be announced this Fall. Legion Posts need to continue to promote this program in their local high schools and communities.



AT LEFT: The participants posed for a group photo. From left, Mary Parker, DAR; Chris Kowalkowski, Director, Wisconsin Veterans Museum; Christian Overland, CEO, Wisconsin Historical Society; James Bond, Wisconsin VA Secretary; Patricia Rohn, DAR; Gov. Tony Evers; and Natalie Popp, Miss Capital City's Teen 2025.



TOP RIGHT: Among the Color Guards were members of the Sons of the American Revolution and Mary Parker of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Mary read "Paul Revere's Ride." Piper Bob Platine is partly obscured at the rear. The Color Guard started the proceedings, Patricia Rohn led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Natalie Popp led us in the Star-Spangled Banner.



BOTTOM RIGHT: PNC Denise Rohan, Madison Post 501 3rd Vice Commander & Chaplain "AJ" Feucht, and SAL 3rd District PAO/Historian Seán Patchin posed with WDVA Secretary James Bond prior to the ceremony.

TWO LIGHTS FOR TOMORROW

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, in collaboration with the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and the Wisconsin Historical Society hosted a Two Lights for Tomorrow ceremony at the Wisconsin State Capitol on Monday, April 14 at noon. This event was the kickoff of a week-long commemoration honoring the 250th anniversary of events that lit the flame for the War of

Independence. The original April 1775 occurrence was Paul Revere's warning to the Boston residents. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow penned his poem, "Paul Revere's Ride." In the poem was the famous line, "One if by land, two if by sea."

Submitted by Morris Sadicario, Historian, Severson-Cairns American Legion Post 501 Madison.

What if you were Bob?

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

What happens next?

George has Emergency Assistance Plus® (EA+®)	Both require	Bob does not
George pays \$0	Medical evacuation to a facility that is able to properly treat their condition	Bob pays \$16,000
George pays \$0	Medical specialists to monitor their care	Bob pays \$400
George pays \$0	Travel assistance to bring a loved one to their bedside	Bob pays \$1,100
George pays \$0	A driver to drive their car/ RV back home since they are unable to drive	Bob pays \$1,800
George's Total: \$0		Bob's Total: \$19,300!

Emergency Assistance Plus is an emergency medical transportation service that goes beyond health and travel insurance. It coordinates and provides services for medical transportation, medical evacuation, and travel and companion assistance — services that your medical insurance usually does NOT pay for. You must call EA+ during your emergency so EA+ can make the arrangements for you.
**This is only an outline of the plan's features. Please read your Member Guide carefully to understand all the services available to you, as well as any rules and regulations.
Washington state residents must be traveling more than 100 miles away from home to be eligible for EA+ services.
Learn more about how you can be protected by EA+. Call today to speak with a customer service representative at 1-888-293-4008. Or to apply online, visit www.thelit.com/Emergency-Assistance-Plus

HOW TO SUBMIT TO THE BADGER LEGIONNAIRE

Hello, Wisconsin Legion family! I hope that you enjoy *The Badger Legionnaire*. I do my best to create a quality publication that everyone can enjoy, however, I do receive some articles from members that I just cannot use due to various reasons. In order for everyone to be successful with their submissions, I am including a list of requirements and things not to send for articles to be included our publication.

- Things to do (Requirements):**
- Articles and photos need to be emailed to Badger@wilegion.org
 - Articles need to be in a Word document
 - Photos need to be in jpg. format - limit to 2 photos per article
 - Articles should not be more than 400 words in length
 - Posts should not send more than 2 articles per edition
 - The photos and the article need to be separate — do not combine them into one document. We need to be able to move the two around to best fit.

- Things not to do:**
- Do not send articles promoting upcoming fundraising events. *The Badger Legionnaire* does not have room in the publication to advertise every Post's fundraisers.
 - Do not mail or drop off hard copy photos and hand written articles to be published. Our work with our contracted printer is all done electronically. Hard copy photos that are scanned are not a good quality for printing.
 - Do not send articles that are over 400 words. We just do not have enough space for long articles. We want to be able to include everyone's submissions.
 - Look at your photos before sending. Are they clear? Does the photo have meaning — will the other readers know what is going on in the photo? We want to see Legionnaires in action! This gives your Post bragging rights.
- Happy Reading! I look forward to seeing the great things that are going on at the Posts throughout the state of Wisconsin!
- Sheri Hicks, Editor

NATIONAL AND HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS DISCUSSIONS ON LOCAL OUTREACH

Once again, we want to reach out to the Legion Post Officers and Executive Committees to suggest that you have discussions with your post members on how they can help out in their communities in the event of a national or local disaster.

Such events could include flooding, tornadoes and other weather abnormalities, fires, gas leaks and other serious situations.

Make it a point to inform the local community and county Emergency Management

Teams of what your Post and its members can do to assist in these matters. There is a good chance some of your post members have first responder training and could lead the charge when these disasters occur.

We are here to help you contact your local Emergency Management Teams. Please let them know that the American Legion can assist in these types of disasters.

Bob Bohr, Chair
National and Homeland Security Committee

A FAMILY THING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In addition to many awards and speakers, come meet the youth winners and hear how our programs have impacted their lives. NEW this year we have added a Post Commander’s Course in the afternoon. In the evening join the outgoing and incoming leadership for the Past Commander’s Club party with a taco bar and **BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND Daddy Ds Production**. Get out

your 50s gear and dancing shoes for a night to remember. **Sunday, July 20, 2025** will begin with a Legion Family Memorial Service, followed by the installation of Department Officers. The weekend will conclude with the first Department Executive Committee meeting of the newly elected officers. For up-to-date information on the convention, including speakers, registration, and housing visit <https://wilegion.org/departement-convention>.



106th CONVENTION
Hyatt Regency Green Bay / KI Center
333 Main Street, Green Bay, WI 54301

JULY
16-20
2025

This is your registration form only; this is **NOT YOUR DELEGATE FORM**. Delegate Forms are mailed to the Post 30 Days prior to Convention, June 18, 2025 per the Department Constitution and Bylaws. It is advised however, to register prior to this date.

Remember all Legionnaires are encouraged to attend the Department Convention, not just Delegates and Alternates. Only 1 registration per form, if you wish to register multiple people at once, you can do that by registering online at wilegion.org (preferred).

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone Number: _____ Email: _____
Member ID #: _____ District Number: _____
AL Post #: _____ Auxiliary Unit #: _____ SAL Squadron #: _____

ITEM	NUMBER	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Registration Fee		\$30.00	
Registration Fee after July 7, 2025		\$35.00	
Saturday Evening PCC/Legion Family Event: Buffet- 7 PM, ½ Barrel of Beer, Soda, cash bar and Live Entertainment by Daddy Ds-Doors open at 6:30 PM- Deadline June 30, 2025		\$30.00/person	
Total Enclosed:			

Make checks payable to The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin

Check #: _____

OR enter credit card information below

Card Type: _____ Card #: _____
Expiration date: ____/____ Security Code: _____

Return with payment to:
The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin
Attn: Convention
P.O. Box 388, Portage, WI 53901
Or email to: angie@wilegion.org

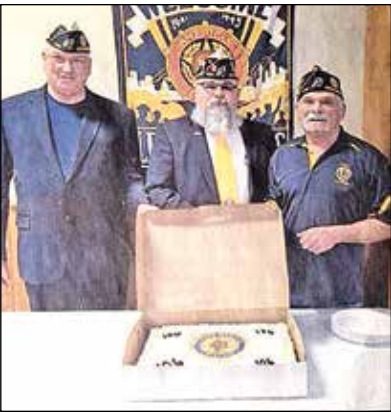
Post 185 MARKS AL's 106 YEARS

Brask-Fossum-Janke Post 185 of The American Legion in Grantsburg held its annual recognition dinner and National American Legion 106th Birthday observance on March 22. Post Commander Michelle Marek and Burnett County Veterans Service Officer Ella Parker were joined by Auxiliary member Terri Giles to preside over the event. Volunteer recognition was given to the following for assisting with Post dinners and activities: June Anderson, Lynda Blyton, Jerry Currey, Ron Diffie, Vicki Diffie, Melissa Edaburn, Jan Lindberg, Denny Lockwood, Kathy Nordall, Terri Stone and Jackie Taylor. For Womens History Month the following were recognized for their military service: Michelle Marek, U.S. Marines; Angela “Ella” Parker, U.S. Army; Andrea Flohr, U.S. Air Force; Wendy Holmstrom, U.S. Air Force and Air Force Reserve; Pamela Geiger, U.S. Army; Sara Moore, U.S. Army; and Hope Tucker Mathews, U.S. Air Force Reserve. Also noted were military Veterans Ami Giasullo, Brandi Hanson, Diane Richard and Kelsey Wingate. Auxiliary Continuous Member-

ship awards were presented to: Lana Corty, 5 years; Jasmine Spohn, Barbara Myers, Linda Dahl, Tyler Java, Jordan Java, and Alex Java, 10 years; Kathryn Anderson, 25 years; Michelle Janson, 35 years; and Linda Taylor and Carol Bowman, 45 years. Post 185 members were also honored with membership awards as follows: Thomas Martini, 5 years; Charles Fagerberg, 10 years; Wayne Melquist, Larry Benson, James Frisbee, Michael Henderson, Raymond Thoenke and Mark Nordahl, 15 years; Louis DeMarre, Gene Blomberg, 20 years; Todd Warren, Brent Yant, Mike Downing, William White, 25 years; Gerald Olson, Mathew Janson, 35 years; Donald Anderson, 40 years; Glen Taylor, Kevin Howard, 45 years; and the late Eugene Gronlund who recently passed away, 75 years. Ella Parker and Commander Marek offered congratulations to each honoree and thanked them for their service to their country and the American Legion and Auxiliary. “I am extremely honored to have a job where I can work with and help Veterans of our armed forces,” Parker said. “We all owe them a huge debt of gratitude.”

106TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IN THE 12TH

Members of the 12th District American Legion celebrated the 106th Anniversary of the organization following their district meeting at the Hayward Vets Center. The group meets 5 times per year, not counting convention, and consists of Legion Posts from Northwest Wisconsin representing 17 counties and 34 different Legion Posts. L-R 12th District Service Officer Dennis Young, 12th District Commander James Woody, and Hayward Post Commander Mike Poppe. Photo by taken by Dave Zett.



POST 6 DONATION

Associated Bank, STH-10, Stevens Point, has donated \$250 to American Legion Post 6 of Stevens Point to be used in support of Veteran Associations in Portage County. L to R are: Stan Kostka (Post 6), Heidi Bork, Becky Kuklinski, Mike “Gunner” Pohl (Post 6), Melinda Cummings, Lois Watson (Associated Branch Mgr.), and Dennis Kaminski (Post 6). A big thank you to Associated Bank.



POST 360 HONOR GUARD



Waunakee Post 360’s Honor Guard gathered for a nice group photo.



POST 171

Union Grove Post 171 celebrated the birthday of The American Legion with a dinner and cake. Pictured are (L-R) Frank Konieska, Commander Post 171, and Sandy Mannix, President of Unit 171 Auxiliary.

*Nathan Bond for
Dept. Commander*



Nathan M. Bond
Dept. Vice Commander

Department Vice Commander Nathan M. Bond is seeking support for election to the High Office of Department Commander. His eligibility for membership is his 24 years of service with the United States Army.

See the December 2024 edition of *The Badger Legionnaire* for additional information on Candidate Nathan Bond.

*Steve Kohnke for
Vice Commander*



Steve Kohnke
4th District Commander

4th District Commander Steve Kohnke humbly asks for your support for his election to the High Office of Department Vice Commander. His eligibility for membership in The American Legion comes from his almost 43 years of service in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve.

See the December 2024 edition of *The Badger Legionnaire* for additional information on Candidate Steve Kohnke.

*Larry Larson for
Vice Commander*



Larry Larson
Past 10th District Commander

Past 10th District Commander Larry Larson is seeking support for election to the High Office of Department Vice Commander.

His eligibility for membership is his service in the U.S. Army, retiring in 1990.

See the December 2024 edition of *The Badger Legionnaire* for additional information on Candidate Larry Larson.

*Rita Rindahl for
Vice Commander*



Rita Rindahl
10th District Commander

10th District Commander Rita Rindahl is seeking support for election to the High Office of Department Vice Commander.

Her eligibility for membership is her service in the U.S. Marine Corps.

See the February 2025 edition of *The Badger Legionnaire* for additional information on Candidate Rita Rindahl.

*Dave Steinert for
Vice Commander*



Dave Steinert
6th District Commander

6th District Commander Dave Steinert is seeking support for election to the High Office of Department Vice Commander.

His eligibility for membership is his service in the Army National Guard from 1969 to 1992, with active duty Army during Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

See the December 2024 edition of *The Badger Legionnaire* for additional information on Candidate Dave Steinert.

*Aimee Korger for
Sgt.-at-Arms*



Aimee Korger for
Dept. Sergeant-at-Arms

Department Sergeant-at-Arms Aimee Korger is seeking support for reelection as Department Sergeant at Arms.

See the February 2025 edition of *The Badger Legionnaire* for additional information on Candidate Aimee Korger.

POST 83 MARKS 104 YEARS



Prescott-Bayens Post 83 of Sheboygan held their annual awards banquet March 22. The theme of the banquet was Patriotism. The Post celebrated 104 years of service to our Veterans and community. Pictured from left to right is Sergeant-at-Arms John Fields, Finance Officer Tom Heinrich, Post Commander Randy Meyer, Banquet Chairperson Legionnaire Gwen Mazer, Adjutant Harvey McBroom and honored guest, Department Vice Commander Jerry Hook and 2nd District Commander Charlie Young.

CALUMET COUNTY COUNCIL MARKS AL'S 106 YEARS

On March 23, the Calumet County Council of the 6th District American Legion commemorated The American Legion 106th anniversary with a banquet. The program, which emphasized the theme of remembering the past, honoring the present, and boldly facing the future, was attended by over 55 Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and guests from Calumet County.

Department Commander Jim Johnson, Department Vice Commander Jerry Hook, District Commander Dave Steinert, and District Auxiliary President Diane Steinert delivered speeches. The event also featured author David Eldon Jones, a factual-fictional writer and member of Sherwood Post



LEFT: (L to R), 6th District Adjutant Nancy Schnell-Rivera, 6th District Commander Dave Steinert, Department Commander Jim Johnson, Calumet County Commander Don Voigt, and Department Vice Commander Jerry Hook. RIGHT: Author David Eldon Jones addressing attendees during Calumet County Council's American Legion Birthday Banquet on March 23.

496. Jones discussed how his military and post-military experiences have influenced his writings, which often incorporate local landmarks and events.



DISTRICT 3 HOLDS BANQUET IN PLATTEVILLE



LEFT: Grant County in the 3rd District held a banquet on March 27 in Platteville. **RIGHT: (L to R)** 3rd District Commander Dan O'Brien, Department Vice Commanders Nathan Bond and Jerry Hook, Grant County 1st Vice Commander Mike Lieurance.



POST 508 HONORS NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY



March 29 is designated as National Vietnam War Veterans Day, to honor those Veterans, Wilton Legion Post 508 sent each Vietnam Veteran a letter thanking them for their service and recognized its Vietnam era Veterans in attendance at March's meeting. Vietnam era members make up 31 of the 76 members at Post 508. Pictured from left to right, Steve Brandau, Ted Koebernick, Bill Tyler, Jerome VonHaden, David Brandau, John Perz, Bob Birkholz, Darryl Raabe, Mike Arttus, and Larry Bever.



POST 501 LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR



Commander Jerry Scalissi of Severson-Cairns Post 501 in Madison presents Public Relations Legionnaire Harvey Phillips with his 2025 Legionnaire of the Year plaque. Harvey has been involved in several projects that beautify our post such as our flag box and our new shed. He accomplished all this without a trip to the E.R. Thank you, Harvey!

POST 51 FLAG AND PLAQUE



On Veterans Day, 2024, the West Salem Berg- Hemker -Olson Post 51 presented the West Salem Middle School with a flag and plaque to proudly display for the continued partnership in honoring our area Veterans.

HUBERTUS SQUADRON 522 RAISES \$12K



The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 522 in Hubertus held their 3rd Annual 9-Pin Tap Bowling Tournament at Pioneer Bowl in Richfield on Saturday, April 19. It was a full house with 95 bowlers, along with lots of friends who showed up to support the cause by participating in the many different raffles that were available. Because of this, over \$12,000 was raised for local Veterans' organizations throughout the area. The Squadron wishes to thank all of the bowlers, lane sponsors, raffle donors, and supporters who made this event a tremendous success, and look forward to doing it again next spring!

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



POST 539 MEMBER WINS AWARD FOR VOLUNTEERISM

Gail Nohr, Green Bay Madelyn LaCanne American Legion Post 539 member received the Veteran Volunteer of the Year award for 2024 from the United Patriotic Society of Green Bay on February 16. She was a Hospital Corpsman in the Navy and worked at the Brown County Veterans Service Office for many years taking phone calls from Veterans in need of housing. This experience exposed her to the great shortage of available housing. She decided to start Veterans 1st of Northeast Wisconsin Tiny Homes Village. The goal is to build 21 small homes for Veterans. A Community Center will also be built where up to 20 different services and group meetings can take place. There are currently over 75 partner agencies that will be helping with building and services for their Veteran residents.

SAL 121 SCHOLARSHIP



SAL Commander Gary Lubich of River Falls SAL Squadron 121 presented student Nicholas Toffolo with a scholarship.

POST 47 STANDS GUARD FOR PAST PC



Portage Post 47 Commander Dean Simonson and Judge Advocate Dave Eulberg, stand guard at the urn of Past Post Commander Neil Krueger.



LEGION RIDERS DONATE TO CVSO

District 11 American Legion Riders donated to the Price County CVSO. Pictured are Tony Lueck CVSO and Doug Rasmussen Legion Rider.



EASTER MEALS DELIVERED TO VETERAN HOMES

The Wausau American Legion Post 10 delivered over 266 meals to the homes of Veterans and their families on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. To show their support for Veterans, the Man of Honor Society in Wausau provided 42 hams for the meals. The ham was professionally sliced and included in the meals. Volunteers packaged the meals for delivery by 25 volunteer drivers. The post has provided over 7,000 "Safe at Home" meals for Veterans and widows in the past four years. The meal deliveries are just one of the ways that the post thanks Veterans for their service. The post is always looking to help more Veterans with meal deliveries. You can call the post reservation line at 715-298-1606 to be added to the meal delivery list for their next delivery. Please call and leave a name and phone number. Families and caregivers are also encouraged to call for their Veteran. The meals are free for Wausau area Veterans and widows. Post 10 thanks all of the volunteers, members and nonmembers, who make it possible to provide this valuable Veteran service. The post also appreciates the support from our local businesses and community members.

PEWAUKEE POST 71 EASTER EGG HUNT



Pewaukee Post 71 had their annual Easter Egg Hunt at Village Park on April 19. It was another great turnout and fun for all the families. The Easter Bunny, Ronny The Rabbit, made his appearance and took pictures with all the children.

Youth Government Day in Pepin County

Pepin County high school students had an opportunity to learn about careers and services at the county level. The Pepin County Youth Government Day was organized by the Pepin County Veterans Service Officer in collaboration with the Durand American Legion Post 181 and each of the County departments in Pepin County.



It was a great morning for the students to have questions answered. The presentation was followed by a lunch at the American Legion Post. The students then finished the day back in the courtroom listening to an open court proceeding.

This is another way The American Legion gives to its community and youth. Post 181 thanks all of the students that attended and asked questions. Submitted by Christina Baurichter, Vice Commander Am. Legion Post 181.

Fishing Camp Donation



District 11 American Legion Riders donated to the Wisconsin Veterans Fishing Camp. The camp is located in Phillips, WI. Each Fall 20 Veterans come to the camp for four days of guided fishing and good food and comradeship. Veterans are nominated to come to the camp. Pictured are Joel Walczak, founder, and Doug Rasmussen, Legion Rider.

Superior Post 435 Updates Remembrance Display Case



Post 435 in Superior recently added the Post 435 lettering at the top and words below to the front of the display case. A picture of the display case is in the Bong Veterans Center Lobby. Post 435 holds a Flag Remembrance Ceremony for families when they request it. The families bring in items to place in the case and the Post raises a flag on Friday morning and it stays up for a week, then the flag is taken down the following Friday and given to the family. Several of these flag ceremonies are held for families throughout the year.



Miles-Hagen American Legion Post 200 Chili Contest and Euchre Tournament

Post 200 of Black River Falls held the third Annual Chili Contest and Euchre Tournament. With 10 chili entrants and over 40 Euchre players, it was considered a successful event. For a free will donation, the public was able to test the

chilis and vote for their favorite. First place went to Pam Bjerke (wife of Finance Officer Randy Bjerke) with her Bison Chili. 2nd and 3rd places were rounded out with Ella Goldsmith and Steve Hansen (Post Commander). Trophies were pre-

sented to the top three finishers and a large time was had by all! The card players had an enjoyable afternoon, letting their chili digest while listening to music and downing a cold beverage or two. Another successful Post 200 event is in the books!

District 2 Holds Spring Conference Awards Celebration in Watertown



2nd District Spring conference, April 26, was held at Lindberg's by the River in Watertown. LEFT: Edward J. Ormsby Law Enforcement Officer of the Year: Patrol Officer Taylor Johnson, Sheboygan Police Department, nominated by Triple Nickel Post 555, Sheboygan. CENTER LEFT: Firefighter of the Year, Battalion Chief Chad Butzine of the Watertown Fire Department, nominated by Watertown Post 189. CENTER RIGHT: Emergency Medical Technician of the Year, Christopher J. Nass, nominated by Cedarburg Post 288. RIGHT: The Outstanding Enlisted National Guard/Reservist Award, Senior Master Sergeant Jeffery Vanderbeek, 128th Air Refueling Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard. Nominated by Belgium Legion Post 412.

Post 360 Nets Community Organization of the Year

Commander Betsy Mulcahy of Waunakee American Legion Post 360 was presented with the Waunakee Community Organization of the Year Award.



Post 360 Award

Mary and Tom Acker were presented with the Waunakee Community Leadership Award by Waunakee American Legion Post 360 Past Commander Dave Barman.





LEFT: Buff served as the Grand Marshal of the 2024 Delafield 4th of July parade. **CENTER:** Buff with his son, Captain Cory Roeber. **RIGHT:** Captain Roeber's Blackhawk.

DELAFIELD 4TH OF JULY HAS SPECIAL MEANING TO POST VICE COMMANDER

Keith “Buff” Roeber is the 2nd Vice Commander of the Delafield American Legion Post 196. Post 196 coordinates the annual 4th of July parade for the City of Delafield. Buff was fortunate enough to be voted as the Grand Marshal of the 2024 parade. In addition to this honor, he arranged for an Army Blackhawk helicopter to fly in from Madison to Delafield that

landed on the ball field at the post for the past 2 years. Once again, Buff is working on the paperwork to have the Blackhawk fly in this year on July 4. What makes this even more special is that Buff’s son, Captain Cory Roeber, is a member of the 147th AVN BN Wisconsin Air National Guard and is one of the pilots flying the Blackhawk.

THIRD DISTRICT EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR NOMINATED

Kathy D. Williams, Coordinator of School/Community Relations for the DeForest Area School District, was named Educator of the Year by the Third District at their spring conference. Shown to the right with Post Commander Jim Skelton. She has worked at DeForest Area School District for 18 years, mainly at Yahara Elementary School as a Speech Pathologist and Reading Specialist. Her expertise led her to become an instructional coach, and she played a key role in planning educational continuity during the COVID pandemic. Since 2022, Kathy has served as the district’s Coordinator of School/Community Relations. Kathy, the mother of Post 348’s 2015 High School Constitution Oratorical Scholarship Program recipient, serves on the Board of Directors for both the DeForest-Windsor Area Chamber of Commerce and the DeForest Police Foundation. She is also a member of Kiwanis International. Kathy was Post 348’s Teacher of the Year in 2016 and has judged the post’s oratorical contests. She values American Legion programs and has been a strong supporter of local Legion activities.



POST 501 ATTENDS VETERANS DAY AT THE CAPITOL



Some Madison Post 501 members attended the “Veterans Day at the Capitol” event in Madison on April 22 to support state bills that would help Veterans in Wisconsin. **AT FAR LEFT:** Post 501 Veterans at Veterans Day at the Capitol. **AT LEFT:** Post 501 American Legion members and other Veterans met with State Senator Kelda Roys’ staff in support of Veterans bills.

FOR POST 436, COMMUNITY SUPPORT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP = SUCCESS

Wrightstown American Legion Post 436 has joined forces with the De Pere VFW Post 2113 to create a series of Veterans Against Hunger Food Drives. The focus of the food drives is to support the small, rural, farming communities of southern Brown County – including the food pantries in the towns of Wrightstown, Brillion, Wayside, Greenleaf, and Morrison, plus for pet food – the Wild and Free Animal Rescue Group in Wrightstown. Pictured are members of AL Post 436 and VFW Post 2113 as they present the donations received during the first food drive on April 16, 2025 (6 pm–8 pm). Follow-up Veterans Against Hunger Food Drives were on May 1 (Kwik Trip east De Pere, 9 am–5 pm); May 2 (Dick’s Family Foods, Wrightstown, 9 am–6 pm); May 3 (Cotter Funeral Home Family Gathering Center, Wrightstown, 8 am–10 am); and April 14 thru May 2 at Community First Credit Union (De Pere branch daily during business hours, 9 am–5 pm). All people and pet nonperishable



food items will be presented to the food pantries on May 3 between 10 am–10:30 am. The combined food drives are co-coordinated by AL Post 436 and VFW Post 2113 members – Michelle Leick-Leurquin (right in red shirt) and Randy Hansen (4th from left in VFW jacket).

POST 501 VETERANS BANNER



A banner is posted on Monona Drive in Madison honoring Veterans and American Legion Post 501 in Madison. It will be posted until after Memorial Day.

POST 93 DOLES OUT DONATIONS



Tomahawk American Legion Bronstred-Searl-Ingman Post 93 donated \$500 to each of the following children and youth organizations: American Legion Baseball; American Legion Softball; Boy Scout Troop 548, Tomahawk; Girl Scout Troop, Tomahawk; school meal debt relief program, and Happy Kids Backpack. These donations were made possible by the generosity of the community.

WORKING TOGETHER TO CLEAN UP POST 67



Members from American Legion Post 67, Sons of the American Legion Squadron, American Legion Auxiliary Unit, and the Boy Scouts worked together to help clean up Lake Mills American Legion Post 67’s grounds. All worked very hard together as a team.

POST 84 ACHIEVEMENT



At the 3rd District Spring Conference on April 26, 2025 at American Legion Post 84 Monroe, Commander of Lafayette County Council Peter Herman received the Certificate of Achievement for achieving (and surpassing) 100% membership. He is urging a big turnout for the September Mallards baseball outing as a Veterans activity.

POST 473 COMMANDERS



Potosi American Legion Post 473 newly elected Commander Mark Richardson (right) presents a letter of appreciation to Commander Steven Post for his 11 years as Post Commander.



PETE SWANSON FIELD SIGN DEDICATION IN VIROQUA

The Jacobson-Olson American Legion Post in Viroqua will be hosting a baseball tournament at Pete Swanson Field in Viroqua on July 4. The Viroqua American Legion baseball team was formed in 1975 with Pete Swanson as the coach. This year will be the 50th year and it will be celebrated with all of the players from past Viroqua American Legion baseball teams in attendance. There will be a dedication of a new sign board in Coach Pete Swanson's honor. The new sign was sponsored by Viroqua American Legion Post 138 and Sleepy Hollow Auto group who picked up 50% of the cost. Coach Swanson coached the Viroqua American Legion baseball teams until his unexpected passing on July 16, 2024. Coach Swanson was also Post 138's commander at the time of his death. In July 2021, the baseball field was named in Pete's honor. The sign dedication will take place July 4 at 5:30 p.m. prior to the game between the Viroqua and Westby American Legion baseball teams.



POST 181 DURAND DONATES TO NONPROFITS

Recently the Durand American Legion Post 181 gave back to local nonprofit organizations that helps Veterans.

Christina Baurichter, Vice Commander of Post 181, has personally utilized the Veterans Program at Trinity Farms. They provide free equine services to Veterans to assist them through triggers from war and beyond. She was one that thought she was equipped to transition into civilian life after the military. She had taken the transition training the military provides many times. Baurichter knew it wouldn't be easy but she was equipped. Little did she know that leaving the military wasn't going to be by her choice. A spinal tumor in her C2 was found while on active duty and subsequent surgery left her paralyzed. She could no longer run, jump, and do what the military needed her to do. Luckily, she has found support in programs like this to ease her through the tough stuff and help



her grow into a better person.

Baurichter found the Red House of Hope during her transition as well. She had acquired a home to put disabled Veterans in and started "More Than a Veteran Home LLC." Little did she know that because of this she was connected to Melissa Walczak, founder of Red House of Hope. Melissa happened to live in the same neighborhood. Since that Godly connection she has added the Red House of Hope as part of her support system and safe place to get through struggles. The Red House of Hope is a Christian based mentorship program that helps those with addiction, mental health and poverty. There are Veterans that fall into this category. She has witnessed this program work. She continues to be part of this program as a mentor and property manager. Baurichter was excited as the Post Vice Commander to present checks to each of these organizations, knowing how much it would be assisting local Veterans.



POST 169 SENDS 2 TO BADGER STATE

Amery Larson Torgerson Post 169 has selected two outstanding High School students to attend 2025 Badger Boys/Girls State. Pictured from left to right: Vice Commander Jim Adams, Evelyn Braaten, Past Commander Don Fansler, Maxx Harris, and Commander Mark Starsky.

BADGER ACES PROGRAM PRESENTED AT WABENO POST 44

American Legion Sylvan Post 44 Commander George Richards introduced author Mike O'Connor who writes books on Wisconsin hometown heroes.

Mike's latest book is *Badger Aces, Wisconsin Fighter Aces 1917-1972*. Mike presented the chronicles of aerial exploits of Wisconsin-born fighter pilots who became aces in World War I, World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam wars. Mike gave a 30-minute presentation that was enjoyed by the Legion and Auxiliary members. The program high-



lighted history that was unknown by many. The presentation was lighthearted and there were questions and positive comments afterwards.



POST 154 FLAG DISPOSAL PIT

Mondovi Post 154 offers sincere thanks to Ben Sessions (Mondovi High School grad) for the generous purchase and donation of the flag disposal pit; Cardinal Manufacturing, the student-run machine & fabricating business at Eleva-Strum High School; and talented welder Caden Rosman who completed the unit. Ben purchased the pit to support the cause of respectfully disposing unserviceable flags. The donation, presented to Post 154 on May 5, 2025, will significantly improve the post's future flag disposal ceremonies.



Lani on left, Tony on right.

POST 10 WAUSAU MAKES DONATION TO PATRIOT K-9S

Lani Rethaber, Executive Director of Patriot K-9s of Wisconsin in Wausau and a United States Marine and National Guard Veteran accompanied by Scarlett, one of the organizations ambassadors, spoke at the Wausau American Legion Post 10 meeting on March 18, 2025 at Bunkers Restaurant in Wausau.

Lani talked about the Service Dog Training Program for Veterans and active-duty military. The canine, training and equipment are supplied free of charge to qualified Veterans. The certified service dogs accompany the Veterans in their daily life after graduation from the 24-week training program.

Tony Nardi, Commander of Post 10 presented Lani with a check to cover the cost of the training program. Post 10 is proud to be a sponsor of training a service dog.

The mission of the Patriot K-9s of Wisconsin is: At no cost to qualified Veterans, we educate and train Psychiatric Service Dog Teams to have a fulfilling and meaningful life in the community of their choice. Their goal is: Helping Veterans win the war against suicide, depression and anxiety by empowering them with the use of a service dog. Patriot K-9s is a 501c3 serving all qualified Veterans. They are a member of ASDPMV and they are working on our accreditation with them.

For more information, see their website www.patriotk9s.org.

Story and photo courtesy of Mike Heilmann, Post 10 Historian-Public Relations.



POST 385: 70 YEARS

Amson “Bud” Beckwith, member of Verona American Legion Post 385, received a 70-year continuous award certificate. Bud is a 97-year-old Korean War Veteran. Bud joined American Legion Post 53 in his hometown of Morristown, New Jersey, in June 1953. Bud then transferred to Post 481 in Madison where he was a member for many years before he transferred to Post 385 in Verona. Past National Commander Denise Rohan presented the certificate to Bud.



POST 83: 70 YEARS

Prescott-Bayens Post 83 in Sheboygan celebrates 70 years of service for Korean War era Veteran John Ballhorn (left). He received his 70-year continuous membership certificate signed by the National Commander from the Post Commander Randy Meyer (right). 1st Vice Commander Mark Winkel assisting (center).



POST 33: 70, 50 YEARS

Members of Duhm/Masch American Legion Post 33 in Black Creek, recognized Vervle “Red” Sievert for 70 years of continuous membership. Red served in the U.S. Air Force from 1948 until 1952. This milestone was also made even better when the Post welcomed its newest member, putting the Post over 100% of its membership goal. LEFT: Vervle “Red” Sievert receives his 70-year membership certificate from Patrick Amerson, Post Commander. RIGHT: 50-plus year members Roger Dorn, “Red” Sievert and Steve Rettler (Not pictured: Gary Kaphingst, John Minschmidt and Mary Meyer.)



POST 460: 60 YEARS

Belleville Post 460 American Legion Commander Richard Hardyman on the right and Finance Officer Samuel Christen on the left presenting a certificate for 60 years continuous membership in The American Legion to Ernest Mabis.



POST 161: 50, 55 YEARS

LEFT: King Post 161 presented Howard Hagen his 50 continuous years award. He is a Navy Veteran of Vietnam, Past Commander and a longtime Adjutant of American Legion Post 1161 at King. RIGHT: King Post 161 presented David Johnson with a 55 continuous year award. He is a Marine Veteran of the Vietnam Era.



POST 243: 35 YEARS

Kermit Krueger, a 99-year-old World War II Veteran is presented a plaque commemorating his 35 years as a member of the Plymouth Ladewig-Zinkgraf Post 243.



POST 134: 60 YEARS

Boscobel American Legion Post 134 Commander Don Wolc and Post Membership Officer Bruce Winters presented Robert Mertz an award for 60 years of continuous membership in The American Legion.



POST 47: 50 YEARS

Portage Post 47 Commander Dean Simonson presents Post member Thomas Moore a certificate for his 50 years of continuous membership in The American Legion.



POST 67: 50 YEARS

Members from Lake Mills American Legion Post 67 presented member Ron Niedfeldt with a Certificate of Continuous Membership for his 50 years of dedicated service to the values and traditions of The American Legion. Presenting the award to Ron Niedfeldt were Post 67 Commander Larry Sauer; Post First Vice Commander Don Grunewald; and Post Adjutant Steve Cabral. A special thank you goes out to the staff and residents of Trinity Pines Retirement Center in Lake Mills for hosting this event.



POST 185: 55 YEARS

Chuck Swenson (left) and Jim Sundquist were recently honored for 55 years of membership in the Brask-Fossum-Janke Post 185, in Grantsburg. Both served in the U.S. Army with Chuck serving a tour in Vietnam and Jim serving in Europe and later with the Wisconsin Army National Guard. Both men have been active in several positions in the Post for many years.



POST 395: 50 YEARS

Kingston American Legion Post 395 held a ceremony on April 1 for member Russell Wendt who received a certificate from the National Commander for his 50-year membership in The American Legion. Post 395 Commander Derek Kohn presenting certificate to Russell Wendt.



POST 352: 50 YEARS

Cassville Mumm-Welsh Post 352 Commander Steve Kirschbaum presented member Richard Breuer an award for 50 years of continuous membership in The American Legion. Also pictured is Richard’s wife, Chris.



POST 98: 50 YEARS

Commander Dennis Free of Cumberland American Legion Post 98 presented Ronald Woodward a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership in The American Legion.

CORRECTION

The story "Hurricane Helene Relief Provided by Two Wisconsin Posts" in the last issue of *The Badger Legionnaire* was not correct. The story should have read: Hurricane Helene Relief Provided by collaboration of Wisconsin Post 348 DeForest and Furquay-Varina North Carolina Legion Post 116. We apologize for the error.

WAUNAKEE POST 360 AT BADGER HONOR FLIGHT



Waunakee American Legion Post 360 at Badger Honor Flight on April 19.

PLYMOUTH AMERICAN LEGION AIR RIFLE AWARDS

On May 3 the Plymouth American Legion Post 243 held an awards event for the Department of Wisconsin American Legion Postal Match 1st Place Team for 2025 and it's other individual winners. The Match was held the week of February 24.

This is Piper, Morgan, and Kailee's first year in the Postal Match. Lyla Hau, in her second year competing, again took 1st Place in the Beginner Category is holding her trophy. Morgan Adams took 1st Place in the Junior Category and received a trophy for her efforts. Kailee Kornetzke took 3rd Place in the Senior Category and received a \$250



Pictured from left to right are: Piper Koran, Lyla Hau, Morgan Adams, Kailee Kornetzke, Patrick McMullen, Levi Wieck, and Coach DuWayne Wieck. Not pictured Coach Scosh Koran.

scholarship and a trophy.

All of the kids are holding a 1st Place Team plaque. This is the sixth

year in a row that the Plymouth Air Rifle Club has placed 1st in the State, an amazing accomplishment.



James Fialkowski
Department Veterans
Service Officer

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

TALKING BENEFITS AGAIN

Hello from your Service Office! Your Service Office is honored to represent The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin. Your office is proud, knowing that Veterans, war widows(ers) and orphans will receive their due benefits and possibly one day a college education because we were able to help.

Too often have I run into someone that was surprised to hear information about benefits or the nuances of some benefits. I am going to cover the most relevant to my experiences in the past few years.

- Emergency care during and after a suicidal crisis – As of January 17, 2023, VA will pay for, provide or reimburse emergency care for eligible Veterans and individuals – including ambulance transportation costs – and follow-on inpatient or residential care related to the event for up to 30 days, and outpatient care for up to 90 days, including social work."

- Emergency Medical Care – If a Veteran believes his or her life or health is in danger or is experiencing a suicidal crisis, they are encouraged to call 911 or report to the nearest emergency department right away. It is, however, important for you to promptly notify VA (844-724-7842) within 72 hours of a Veteran presenting to the emergency room.

General Eligibility requirements must be met for VA to pay. Got to their website for more detailed information – <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/providers/info-EmergencyCare.asp>

- VA CH 35 Dependency Education Assistance (DEA). The DEA benefit program provides a payment up to \$1,536 monthly toward education and training to eligible dependents of certain Veterans. These benefits may be used for degree and certificate programs, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training. Not many know (DEA) may also be used if an eligible dependent becomes 18 while in high school. Note:

any benefits received in high school will be charged against the basic 36 months of full-time eligibility.

- Presumptive service connection for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), otherwise known as Lou Gehrig's disease. ALS is presumed to be related to military service if it manifests in service or at any time after release from at least 90 consecutive days of active U.S. military service. It does not matter when or where that service was accomplished.

- Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) possible earlier effective date for those who apply later than a year after the Veteran's death. Under 38 CFR § 3.153 (Authority 38 U.S.C. 5105), VA considers an application for survivors' benefits filed because of the death of a Veteran with Social Security Administration (SSA) on or after January 1, 1957, as a claim for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation even if an application for DIC has not been received by VA. The effective date of DIC will be the date the survivors' benefits were filed with SSA. This means, that when DIC is granted for a surviving spouse receiving their spouse's SSA benefit the regulations, and a court case, call for the earlier SSA granted effective date to be granted for DIC.

- On August 10, 2022, The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, known as the Honoring our PACT Act of 2022, or even more colloquially as "the PACT Act," was signed into law by President Joe Biden. The Pact Act law expanded many presumptive exposure areas and presumptive disabilities due to those exposures. The expansion also expands VA health care eligibility due to these accepted exposures. You will find the eligibility requirements on the VA website: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/>.

That is it for now. Contact your local County Veterans Service Office 1-844-947-2876 or our office 414-902-5722, if you have questions concerning any of these information items.



Julie Muhle
Department
Adjutant

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Our programs are busting at the seams coming up in June! Sheri has been busy preparing for Badger Boys State which starts on June 8. Some changes are happening at the Eau Claire campus, which will be a little different for those going. Remember that Thursday, June 12 is Veteran night! The citizens of BBS do a wonderful job helping to make each Veteran in attendance feel honored.

June 14 is the 100th Anniversary event at Camp. There will be food and refreshments, plus each cabin sponsor will be available to tell a little bit about their cabin. This is going to be a very big event so we hope to see you there!

Oh yeah. In case June can't get any busier, WALLECA will be in session the week of June 23. Thirty-six young men and women will be attending to learn more about a career in law enforcement.

But wait! There's more. Our National Commander, James LaCoursiere, will be visiting us from June 23 through June 26. NEC Bob Shappell is working on an itinerary for him, part of which will be a visit to WALLECA and the 7th District.

This takes us into Department Convention, which is July 16 through the 20. There is a great lineup of speakers, vendors, a blood drive, hospitality rooms, drawing for sweepstakes and the Cash Paradise raffles and, to top off the weekend, the PDC bash featuring Daddy D's! How much more can you fit into a weekend!

The success of our programs and events hinges upon us, as leaders, attending the events. These are the programs and events of the Wisconsin American Legion. This year I have heard leaders, who have participated in an event they never had before, comment on how great it was and that they will be back next year. If we get the value of our programs and events, our members will and it will be easier to recruit new members. First step is to attend.



James Bond
WDVA
Secretary

WDVA SECRETARY

Greetings Legionnaires! I want to thank everyone who attended, volunteered, and participated in the WDVA Memorial Day events at our Veterans' memorial cemeteries. Each location—King, Spooner, and Union Grove—is an eternal monument to the dedication and service of Veterans who gave their lives for our nation.

Every Memorial Day serves as a powerful reminder of our profound duty to honor the sacrifices made by those who ensured our nation. While it is a somber day, it is also a day that can inspire. Their courage is a source of inspiration for me and countless others.

You see that inspiration in the actions of those who live on. I saw it at the Capitol at the end of April when over 400 Veterans gathered to advocate for expanding eligibility for the Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit and for funding for the University of Wisconsin MIA Recovery and Identification Project.

I know that there were many Legion and Auxiliary members there that day. Your unwavering commitment to service exemplifies what it means to support our community. The countless hours your members donate to local communities are an excellent example for others to follow. Moreover, the compassionate volunteerism you provide at our three state Veterans Homes exemplifies the success when our Veteran community comes together for our Homes' members.

This summer, as your Legion posts hold picnics, barbecues, and special gatherings, I ask you to help us encourage your fellow Veterans to sign up for and utilize their benefits. Some, like the Wisconsin G.I. Bill, are surprisingly underutilized by Veterans. We want Veterans, their spouses, and their children to take advantage of these opportunities that could greatly enhance their lives.

Please don't hesitate to ask your fellow Veterans if they are aware of and using their benefits. Encourage them to explore our website, WisVets.com, and remind them that our Veteran Benefits Resource Center at 1-800-947-8387 is available to assist them in finding out what benefits might be waiting for them.

Let's work together to ensure that all Veterans who have selflessly served our country—and their families—get the support they deserve. Together, we can make a significant difference!

Yours in Service,

James Bond
Secretary WDVA

“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

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION — IN KIND DONATIONS

Jim Klement
Camp American Legion Director

Camp American Legion has been serving our Wisconsin Veterans for over 100 years. As you can imagine we have a high operating cost. Camp has been blessed with generous donations from both individuals and organizations both in the American Legion Family and outside.

One of the best donations that camp receives is in kind donations. Everything from canned goods and food products to boats, pontoons and UTVs. The simple items like cleaners, laundry detergent and paper products are always in need at camp.

Camp American Legion has an Amazon Wishlist to make it easy to donate to camp. Simply click on the product and purchase and it will automatically get sent to camp. We also have a paper copy list that we hand out to individual and organizations.

One great example of these donations is District 7 of the Legion Riders. Every year they do a drive for Camp American Legion. They hand out our Wishlist to individuals as they enter the grocery store and they have people coming out with carts full of items. This year they had a trailer full of items worth thousands of dollars for camp.

Another great example is Whitewater Post 173. Again, every year they fundraise for canned goods. They have now expanded to include frozen chicken and pork loins.

Camp will need to continue receiving these types of donations to ensure that we keep the operating costs of camp down as much as possible. It always amazes me the generosity of The American Legion Family when it comes to Camp American Legion.

“Camp American Legion, Serving Wisconsin Veterans for over 100 years”

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 or find us on Facebook.

LEFT: (from left to right) Legionnaire of the Year, Post Commander Stephen Zillmer; Police Person of the Year, J. Luke Hemsley; and Fire Person of the Year, Chad Butzine.

RIGHT: The 2023 Post 189 Legionnaire of the Year, Post Adjutant Kirk Grill presents Post Commander Steve Zillmer with the well-deserved 2024 Legionnaire of the Year award.

Post 189 WATERTOWN CELEBRATES 105 YEARS

Watertown’s Pitterle-Beaudoin American Legion Post 189 recently celebrated its 105th birthday with a banquet held at Lindberg’s by the River.

Among the usual festivities, attendees had the additional honor of hearing from guest speaker, Department Membership Chairman & Second District Vice Commander, Joe Leone.

Following Vice Commander Leone’s words, we heard from each of our 2024 honorees as they were presented with their awards.

Post 60 MAKES DONATION TO PARK IN KIMBERLY

Kimberly American Legion Post 60 has donated \$2,500 to the Wm. Verhagen Park in Kimberly. The funds will be used to purchase a ADA (wheelchair accessible) picnic table for the park. Presenting the donation to Holly Female, Kimberly Parks and Rec. Director, are Post 60 CDR Brian Smits and Finance Officer Richard Staedt. The donation is from the raffle Post 60 conducted last year. Another \$600 of that fund was donated to the Kimberly Recreation Department Banquet and \$200 to the purchase of T-shirts for the youth baseball program. It is the mission of Legion Post 60 to support Veterans and community when ever possible.

QUILTS

Cassville Mumm Welsh Post 352 presented 13 quilts at the 2024 Veterans Day dinner to local Veterans. In the past 4 years, 81 quilts have been made by the Cassville Royal Neighbors quilters and other local quilters that have been presented to local Veterans. Pictured are: Back row – Dave O’Connell, Doug Maaks, Russ Kirschbaum, Scott Riedl, John Adrian, Ron Haas, Ron Hulst. Front Row: Sue Wunderlin, Angela Smith, Nicole McDonald, Shawn Schleicher, not pictured Jake Klein and Joanie Dickerson.

Members of Argyle American Legion Post 251 were honored to present Arnold Lien with a Quilt of Valor. He was an infantry soldier in Korea. He is also a 60-year member of the Argyle Legion.

A Quilt of Valor was presented to the 14 Legionnaires in Olson-Grinde-O’Donnell Post 348 in DeForest by Karen Eberhardt, group leader, and Jenni Syftstad of the Verona Quilts of Valor group. ABOVE: (L–R) Bob Mathweg, Dennis Noltner, Cliff Roberts, Peter Schwartz, Jim Skelton, and Terry Walker. BELOW: (L–R) Tony Accola, Rich Belshaw, Ed Busse, Steve Clingman, Rich Edge, Paul Gaustad, and Joe Hornbeck.

Gordon Post 499 member Randy Machkovitz and wife receive a Quilt of Valor presented by Barb McDaniel and maker, Nancy Chamberland at Veteran’s Birthday dinner.

WAUNAKEE MS AT DANE COUNTY YOUTH GOVERNMENT DAY



Waunakee Middle School participated in the Dane County Youth Government Day.

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION DONATION

Jim Klement, Director of the Camp American Legion in Lake Tomahawk talked at the Wausau American Legion Post 10 meeting at Bunkers Restaurant in Wausau on March 19, 2025. He talked about the camp which is a free resource for Wisconsin Veterans, active duty and reserves, their immediate families and families of the fallen. Campers stay on-site in one of the cabins near the lake. They are provided three meals a day with various opportunities to relax, rejuvenate and reconnect.

Jim also talked about the Camp's

100th Year Celebration on Saturday June 14, 2025. The celebration starts with the opening ceremony at 11:00 a.m. and will include tours, live entertainment, food and beverages.

Tony Nardi, Commander of the Wausau American Legion Post 10 presented Jim with Kwik Trip gift cards. The cards will be used for milk and other things that the camp may need to purchase.

Camp details are available on their website <http://www.campamericanlegion.org/> or contact the camp



office at caloffice@wilegion.org or 715-277-2510.

Story and photo courtesy of Mike Heilmann, Post 10 Historian-Public Relations.



Loki

LOKI'S CORNER

Don't forget to mail in your sweepstakes tickets for your chance to win big!



Julie Muhle
Department
Adjutant

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP

I realized as I was writing my article that today is already May 1. Where has the year gone already?! I remember as a child I wished that time would go faster. Now, as an adult, it moves way too fast.

As with the months, so will our programs/events start moving way too fast. As it is May, reports should be coming in. Post, County and District Officer forms, Consolidated Post/Squadron Reports and, yes, we are still waiting for Post Data Reports to come in. To-date, we are at 68% with Post Data Reports and 11% with CPRs. Election of officers take place this month, if not already for Districts, and Officer Reports are due by June 1 as are the Consolidated Post/Squadron Reports. All of these can be found on our website at wilegion.org/membership-forms-%26-info-1.

If you have posts in your District that are at or above 103%, they are eligible for the National Commander's Incentive of the dog tag coin. The posts are also eligible for the Post Excellence Award. These forms can be found on our website at wilegion.org/membership-forms-%26-info-1.

All of the above documents are important to the business of the Wisconsin American Legion. The CPR/CSR help tell our story to Congress, since we are an organization chartered by Congress. Post Data Reports help our Posts run their business by giving their members the correct information regarding dues, building/meeting locations and meeting dates and times. The Post/County/District Officer reports give the appropriate members access to myLegion.org and other information, which is necessary to run the Post/County or District.



Michelle Adams
Department
Historian

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

Thank you to those who submitted history books for judging. Our Department of Wisconsin has a rich history worth telling. Thank you also to those who reached out for clarification. It shows a genuine dedication to doing a job well. To reiterate, historical accounts, even those not submitted for judging, are vital to our organization. Oftentimes, current events seem unforgettable, but over time our memories start

to fade. Maintaining updated written accounts alleviates any confusion. Many of our younger members have reached out for information on their Posts. It can feel like reinventing the wheel and needing unique detective skills to find missing data. We owe it to future generations to document everything we can. Furthermore, even when submitting a narrative yearbook, please maintain photographic records. I recently received photos of Past Department Commander Chuck Cooney, military pics and current. What a delightful display it is, to see his image through the years! As I often say, we are a family. There is nothing we won't do for each other. During times of good and bad, we can rely on each other to get through. The American Legion is the epitome of our heart and soul. It is what makes us the premier Veteran organization. We are focused on Veteran support, as well as community and country excellence. In uncertain times, maintaining programs that foster and preserve American values, we preserve our way of life. For example, I'd like to take the liberty of sharing my son's Eagle Scout Court of Honor. It has been a long journey, since first grade, to achieving Eagle Scout. The Scout Oath and Law are fundamental qualities we aspire to as citizens. For God and Country, we are dedicated to being our best, to help all of humanity. We must always aspire for greatness. Personally, when I have struggled to maintain focus, there has always been a legionnaire who instinctively has given words of encouragement and guidance. It is these moments that make everything we do worthwhile. Our dedication to our nation is what brought us together; it is our mutual camaraderie that keeps us forever bonded to each other. As we conclude another year, please appreciate our accomplishments and strive to make improvements. Together, anything is possible! Our military training has been a guide to bigger and better things. We truly are unstoppable! May our American Legion preamble light the way to all things we aspire. We willingly accept the highest call to duty! For God and Country, we associate ourselves for these specific purposes. May God continue to lead us toward greatness.



Dennis Jaeger
Department
Chaplain

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

BE BOLD

"So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus."

— Acts 8:35 NLT

The New Testament mentions two followers of Jesus named Philip. The first was one of the twelve disciples, the men Jesus handpicked to follow Him. The second was known as Philip the Evangelist. Many Bible scholars believe that Philip the Evangelist was one of the seventy-two men Jesus sent out in Luke 10:1.

According to Acts 6:5, Philip the evangelist was one of the original seven deacons in the church at Jerusalem. According to Acts 21:8-9, Paul and Luke stayed at his house for several days when they visited Jerusalem.

But the story for which Philip is best known is found in Acts 8. Philip had left Jerusalem to become an evangelist in the city of Samaria, which was located about 30 miles north of Jerusalem.

"Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did. Many evil spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city" (verses 6-8 NLT).

Energized and emboldened by Jesus' resurrection, Philip fearlessly spread the gospel to people who were hungry for the Good News.

One day he received very specific instructions from an angel of the Lord. It seems that an important government official from Ethiopia had traveled to Jerusalem to worship. The official was reading aloud from the book of Isaiah in his carriage on his journey back to Ethiopia but was having difficulty making

sense of the text. The angel instructed Philip, "Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza" (verse 26 NLT) — the road the Ethiopian official was traveling.

Philip didn't question why he was being sent to the middle of nowhere. Incredible things had been happening since Jesus' resurrection, and he probably saw the assignment as an opportunity to be part of yet another one.

He was right.

Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

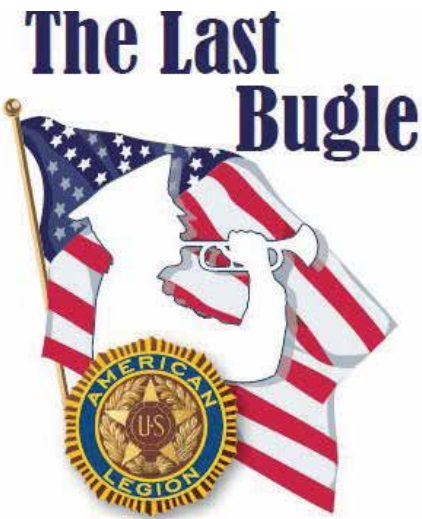
"The man replied, 'How can I, unless someone instructs me?' And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him." (verses 30-31 NLT).

The passage he was reading was Isaiah's prophecy of Jesus being led like a sheep to the slaughter. The official wanted to know who the passage was talking about. He practically invited Philip to share the Good News with him. Philip didn't need to be told twice.

The Ethiopian official was so moved by the gospel message that he asked Philip to baptize him. And then, according to church tradition, he carried the Good News of Christ back to his homeland and started a church there so that countless other lives would be transformed. The Christian faith gained an important foothold in its global spread. All because one man was bold enough to respond to God's call.

If you find yourself in the right place at the right time to share your faith or answer someone's questions about the Bible, it's because God put you there, just as He did with Philip. Seize the moment. Be bold. Even a single encounter can change a life — and more.

Have a Great Summer, American Legion Family!



KEY	WWI-World War I		WWII-World War II	
	V-Vietnam		K-Korea	
	G/L-Grenada/Lebanon			
	P-Panama		PG-Persian Gulf	
	GWOT-Global War on Terrorism			
1 Germantown		David L. Dupont	V	
Donald Schulteis	V	43 Ripon		
Daniel L. Sprenger	P	Myron A. Thews	V	
Thomas A. Hickling		Marshall Faulks	V	
6 Stevens Point		45 Elkhorn		
Patrick O. Pettit	V	Robert L. Davis	V	
8 Waukesha		47 Portage		
Peter G. Desnoo	V	Paul H. Kaether	K	
10 Wausau		Randolph H. Dimond	K	
Alan E. Hoffman	V	John W. Vollmer	V	
Donald R. Beese	K	Ronald H. Blankenheim	V	
Donald Blarek	V	51 West Salem		
David G. Johnson	K	Richard W. Bjerke	K	
David Johnson	K	52 La Crosse		
11 Green Bay		Edward A. Faas	V	
Thomas J. Hinz	V	Burleigh A. Randolph	K	
Joseph E. Frappier	V	53 Eau Claire		
Tom Christensen	V	Gerald H. Rehberg	K	
Ronald J. Miller	V	Earl Zimmerman	V	
Daniel J. Tuschl	V	54 Marshfield		
12 Spooner		Ronald J. Faucher	K	
Michael J. Rafalski	V	William Brueggen	G/L	
13 Richland		Dave Deitchman	V	
William Hilleman	V	Jerome M. Lang	V	
15 Juneau		Edward W. Maurer	WWII	
James Kasper	WWII	55 Hortonville		
16 Cudahy		Donald F. Martzahl	K	
George P. George	K	Gilbert H. Gore		
17 Arcadia		58 Hurley		
Robert C. Wicka	WWII	Dale E. Hedman	PG	
George F. Salwey	K	59 Stoughton		
Wayne B. Bautch	V	Eugene A. Horvath	V	
19 Hartford		Ronald J. Kittoe	V	
Charles E. Ellingson	WWII	61 Prescott		
David A. Kohler	V	Donald Winberg	V	
21 Kenosha		64 Ladysmith		
Chuck J. Falkowski	V	James Moll		
James C. Taube	K	James M. Stanton		
24 Lake Geneva		67 Lake Mills		
Robert A. Blodgett	K	Robert H. Jahn	V	
Wayne D. Parker		68 Prairie du Chien		
26 Baraboo		Bernard F. Mayer	V	
Robert Obrien Sr.	K	William F. Lynch	V	
Ronald G. Schell Sr.	V	69 Mayville		
30 Edgerton		Lois A. Cota	K	
Richard H. Haried	K	Don Riegleman	K	
33 Neenah		70 Oshkosh		
Eugene L. Greening	V	Clyde W. Zielke	WWII	
Jonathan H. Sopol Sr.	V	Harland Mueckler	WWII	
35 West Bend		73 Neillsville		
John L. Camery	V	Daniel J. Campbell	V	
Samuel Olivo	V	Eugene F. Simmons	K	
38 Appleton		74 Oconto		
Robert L. Reinke	V	Douglas C. Durand	V	
Robert J. Schoultz	V			

Robert B. French	PG	154 Mondovi	David Franzwa	V	221 Osceola	Roger Berg	V
75 Fond du Lac	Lavern D. Strelow	157 Horicon	Robert F. Weiss	K	William T. Patten	V	
Lee J. Treleven	V	William R. Dombeck	V	Larry A. Jepsen	V		
Lawrence G. Stoffel	V	159 Cadott	Sidney J. Moham	WWII	224 Alma	Sidney J. Moham	WWII
Ralph C. Leisten	K	Dale Leduc	K	225 Shell Lake	Anton W. Frey	K	
Donald M. Sabel	K	161 King	Russell C. Frehlich	G/L	226 Manawa	R. Daniel Froding	V
Donald Schneider	K	Thomas A. Shambeau	V	233 Waterloo	Gerald L. Hall	K	
77 Chippewa Falls	Gordon E. Haugli	164 Jefferson	Clifford Schemm	K	Peter J. Niesen	V	
81 Mauston	William A. Clark	166 Fort Atkinson	Charles Vandre	K	234 Omro	Kenneth Hitchcock	V
John F. Niederkorn	V	James L. White	V	236 Algoma	Paul E. Schmidt	V	
Edward R. Kohn	V	Harold A. Rumppe	K	238 Greenwood	James Funte	V	
Dennis Condon	V	Willie H. Armstrong	WWII	242 LaValle	Nick Ladas	V	
84 Monroe	Vernon E. Wheeler	Jeffrey Kraus	V	Lloyd B. Jones	V		
85 Muscoda	Clarence G. Pulvermacher	Robert Krentz	V	245 Cross Plains	Richard C. Dahmen	WWII	
89 Minocqua	Gordon A. Black	Leo J. Kern	V	247 Glidden	Carl K. Kubley	V	
Marvin A. Krueger	K	167 Sauk City	Roger W. Cole	V	248 Cottage Grove	Charles C. Magestro	K
90 Ashland	George Jace	Donald Derleth	WWII	258 Little Chute	Charles J. Bongers	V	
91 Oconomowoc	Peter R. Larson	169 Amery	Gerald A. Krisik	V	261 Greenbush	Bernard H. Koenigs	V
95 Delavan	John W. Allen	175 Loyal	Joseph H. Dachel	K	262 Luxemburg	Tom E. Junio	V
John W. Allen	V	176 Weyauwega	John Laude	WWII	263 New London	Gerald V. Abitz	K
Leroy Evans	K	John Laude	WWII	268 Bruce	James J. Jaeger	V	
98 Cumberland	James Krueger	180 Milwaukee	Timothy M. Finn	V	James Witkiewicz	V	
James Krueger	K	Timothy M. Finn	V	Joseph C. Smith	K		
Richard Nerling	V	Ebner H. Luetzow	WWII	278 Balsam Lake	Gary T. Rich	V	
100 Sparta	Gene T. Ruetten	Sanford Countryman	K	280 Coleman	Robert J. Rouse	K	
Gene T. Ruetten	V	David G. Carden	K	282 Markesan	William Slate	K	
Ernest Woods	WWII	Ronald J. Ernst	K	283 Suring	Russell Deleeuw		
Trent Davenport	PG	187 Wisconsin Dells	Charles Balsmeider	K	286 Oostburg	Herbert A. Inselman	K
102 Walworth	Daniel W. Misner	188 East Troy	Michael Mackesey	V	288 Cedarburg	Roy Borchardt	V
Marvin Chatten	V	Michael Mackesey	V	294 Hartland	Carl P. Wittenberg	V	
Donald L. Ulrich	V	189 Watertown	Wayne Fitzgerald	V	David H. Evenstad	V	
104 Cuba City	George W. Hoppenjan	James C. Ellenbecker	V	302 Oconto Falls	Robert Metzler	WWII	
106 Seymour	Louis Rynish	Andrew N. Schmidt	K	303 Winter	Richard N. Buffa	V	
109 Lancaster	Kenneth W. Udelhofen	Vernon R. Mondl	P	304 Palmyra	Robert J. Oleson	V	
114 Eagle River	David G. Westlake	V		305 Johnson Creek	Donald Battenberg	GWOT	
John J. Hora	K	192 Franklin	Russell Spilka	WWII	306 Green Lake	Adrian Gilliam	V
John D. Anderson	K	200 Black River Falls	Dennis E. Mays	V	George W. King	V	
115 Elroy	Curtis M. Gilbertson	V		310 Racine	James A. Fay Jr.	V	
James R. Murphy	John C. Anderson	K		313 Black Earth	Robert C. Peterson	V	
120 West Allis	Robert T. Crook	K		317 Wautoma	James Wheaton	V	
Duane A. Oreskovic Sr.	V			318 Lake Tomahawk	Eugene Battist	K	
Charles R. Donner Sr.	K			322 Babcock	Gary D. Stout		
121 River Falls	Howard Midtlien	V		326 Boyd	Dale H. Debruin	V	
Carl J. Olsen	V			330 Wilson	William J. Krueger	V	
Wesley Eitel	V			336 Onalaska	Gary Mracek	G/L	
George Lafave	V						
122 Phillips	Terry Sellers	K					
128 Stockbridge	Gerald Schmeiser	V					
Ronald Muellenbach	V						
132 Siren	William Hunter						
141 New Glarus	Kent A. Anderson	V					
Tim Agee	V						
144 Albany	Dale P. Dose	V					
146 Beaver Dam	Maurice A. Mack Jr.	K					
Duane C. Schroeder	WWII						
147 Medford	Gerald J. Stuessy	V					
148 Bloomington	Arvin Weber	V					
151 Madison	Ronald J. Syphard	V					
Marvin Lauderdale	V						

337 Pulaski	Norbert Siolka	K	406 Milwaukee	Jerry Kasdorf	V	503 Dane	Richard W. Karls	PG
Mike Brzezinski	V		Robert D. Adams	K		506 Iron River	Kenneth M. Watters	K
339 Almond	Homer T. Pursley III	G/L	Robert D. Bales	V		509 Rosholt	Ronald J. Trzebiatowski	V
343 Hancock	Leslie Hansel	V	415 Milwaukee	John Wehausen	WWII	513 Rome	Jay D. Peck	V
347 Lomira	Gilbert C. Edmunds	K	420 Hustisford	Karl I. Stenerson	V	519 Stetsonville	Larry Underwood	V
348 DeForest	Douglas P. Knudtson	K	427 Milwaukee	George F. Held	K	520 Vesper	Richard E. Zabel	K
Stanley Phillips	V		433 Barneveld	Elvin Everett Will Jr.	K	522 Hubertus	Steve H. Schenck	G/L
350 Reedsburg	William R. Mead	V	435 Superior	James D. Pleau	V	532 Fifield	Roy E. Sauer	K
353 Cornell	Clarence L. Berg	K	440 Clinton	Samuel E. Pomush	V	538 Carlton	Richard E. Spiller	K
357 Bay City	Chris K. Clark	V	446 Steuben	Kermit Groom	V	539 Wrightstown	Ronald Fleming	K
359 Gilman	Paul D. Curry	K	449 Brookfield	James R. Wollinka	WWII	543 Plover	Daniel E. Adamczak	K
Peter W. Skille	V		450 Darien	John F. Budde	K	555 Sheboygan	Terence Grube	V
360 Waunakee	Mark H. Kalscheur	K	454 Mt. Calvary	Dennis J. Berenz	V	555 Sheboygan	Arthur Houwers	V
364 Winneconne	Curtis N. Shawkey	V	457 Mequon-Thiensville	John R. Finco	K	2930 Portage	Kenneth Ogren	V
375 Mukwonago	William E. Soderdahl	K	487 Cable	Jerome J. Berard	K	Gary D. Hinkley	Van D. Hawkinson	V
391 Fremont	George W. Paul	K	488 New Berlin	Thomas Schroeder	V	Benjamin N. Wolff	G/L	
393 Okauchee	Peter Russo	V	496 Sherwood	Melvin Bricker	V	Patrick Quinn	Thomas Belter	
Keith S. Henson	K		499 Gordon	Richard Hart	V	Jan Winter	K	
Gerald G. Bayer	V		501 Madison	William R. Sandquist	V	Alan Jones	V	
Laverne L. Larson	V					Dick Aschenbrenner		
Gordon Zimdars	V							
401 Cambria	Daniel A. Cross	V						

UW MIA RECOVERY ID PROJECT



The UW MIA Recovery Identification Project provided a presentation at the Mount Horeb Community Center on April 22. Above is a picture of the check presentation, one from VFW Post 9511 and one from the Mount Horeb American Legion, Frank E. Malone Post 113.

DISTRICT 11 RIDERS, NORTHWOODS HONOR GUARD



On March 28, the District 11 American Legion Riders and the Northwoods Honor Guard took part in the National Vietnam War Veterans Ceremony at Northwood National Cemetery in Harshaw.

MEMBERSHIP

Department Membership Team

Amy Luft
Chair

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Committee Member

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Committee Member

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Andrea Stoltz

Program Coordinator

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2025 Membership Totals – 90.17%



(as of 5/14/2025)

District	Goal %
4	100.43%
6	94.14%
3	92.09%
12	91.04%
11	89.84%
2	89.82%
9	89.23%
10	88.07%
1	87.92%
8	87.80%
5	86.71%
7	85.95%

Membership is the heart of our organization. Our Department President’s theme of Serving our Veterans, military and each other from the depths of our hearts, is a constant reminder of how important membership is in all that we do.

Where we’re at (as of 05/14/2025):

- 639 New memberships
- 95 Units joined the 100% Club
- 94 Members rejoined
- 3 Re-chartered Units
- 129 Recruit One pins awarded
- 3 Members received the National Recruit 10 award
- 107 New members joined the WI Facebook membership group

Congratulations 4th District! President Kathy Grom, and membership chair Bonnie Jakubczyk, along with their District members, worked hard on membership and it paid off! They are the first District to join the *100% Club*! They showed that recruiting new members and renewing member-

ships is a team effort. Way to Git-R-Done!

Has it been a while since you’ve attended the Department Convention? Or, have you not attended before? This is the year that you don’t want to miss! We’ll be celebrating the units and members who have worked hard on membership. Plus, recognizing those folks who work behind the scenes to make it all possible. In addition, you will learn about our programs and have the opportunity to network with other members who believe in the same mission as you do. Don’t miss out on this great opportunity...register for Department Convention today!

Let’s continue the growth and strength of our organization by letting everyone know who we are, what we do and why we matter. What we do today will leave a lasting impact for those coming behind us. Always remember your *why*, and your purpose. Remain steadfast, dedicated, and committed to the mission and the results will lead towards a positive future for all. Thank you for serving from the depth of your heart for our Veterans, military, their families and our community.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sandy Mack
Department Chairman
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.

There are so many different fundraising ideas. You could have a food drive, read a book at an elementary school, blood drive, chili dump, brat fry, adopt a family, offer a meal to an elderly neighbor, meat raffle, participate in the Honor Flight homecoming, Meals on Wheels, have a car or craft show or fashion show. These are just some ways to get your community involved.

Have you developed a plan, implemented community service activities that aid Veterans, active duty, servicemembers, and their families? Promote economic security for Veterans, active duty servicemembers, 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 documenting in a unit folder monthly or documenting on your own volunteer hour tracking sheet. This is a wonderful way to assist in completing year-end reports. An hour here and an hour there adds up!

In your units, what can you 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, don’t 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 be eligible to become a member. Always keep an application 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. Together, we can make a difference! For God and Country.

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

Bonnie Dorniak
Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer
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608-745-0124

Members helping members – that is what the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is all about. President Becky selected AEF as her special project in keeping with her focus of ‘serving our Veterans, military and **each other** from the depths of our hearts.’

Eligible members needing assistance through AEF may receive up to \$3,000. Online applications are available on the AEF program page of the department website, but are submitted directly to the national organization to maintain confidentiality. If applying, please ensure all required documentation is included with the completed application.

AEF offers two types of grants. Hardship grants are for members facing a financial crisis when no other source of aid is readily available to pay for shelter, basic household utilities, and/or for loss of income. Disaster grants assist members who received damage to their primary residence, were displaced or evacuated from their residence, or had out-of-pocket expenses for temporary emergency expenses as a result of a natural disaster.

In order to maintain the AEF, donations are always needed. Units can hold special fundraisers, collect money from each member at their meetings, or encourage memorial gifts for Auxiliary or Legion members be designated to AEF. Poppy funds cannot be donated to AEF.

This past year, Wisconsin members generously supported President Becky’s special project and donated more than \$32,000 to AEF. Wow! THANK YOU!!

According to the national AEF coordinator, two Wisconsin members applied for hardship grants this year. One was denied funding for failing to provide the necessary supporting documentation but the second applicant received \$2,250.

AMERICANISM

Diane Burkhalter
Department Chairman
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It has been an honor to be your Americanism Chairman the last two years. My committee and I enjoyed reading all the Americanism essays and were inspired by the thoughts of our youth. I enjoyed conversations with the various units and questions, events and activities they shared. Although end of the year reporting might not be on our top ten list of enjoyable activities, they truly illustrated how creative and strong our Americanism program is.

On June 14, 1777, the “Stars and Stripes” was designated the official national symbol of the United States. In 1885, Bernard J. Cigrand, a 19-year-old teacher in Waubesa, asked his students to reflect on the meaning of this symbol and write an essay on what the flag meant to them.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson declared June 14 as National Flag Day. He stated, “My Fellow Citizens: We meet to celebrate Flag Day because this flag which we honor and under which we serve is an emblem of our unity, our power, our thought and purpose as a nation. It has no other character than that which we give it from generation to generation. The choices are ours.”

As Legion Family members, we have numerous opportunities to educate the future generations on proper flag etiquette, the manner of delivery of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, the history and symbolism of our flag, and showing respect for the flag. Partner with schools and youth groups to conduct flag folding ceremonies, give a short program on the proper handling and displaying of the flag, how to respect the flag in a parade, raising and lowering, and during the national anthem.

Invite the community into your posts for family days in which you have endless opportunities to educate in exciting and fun ways. Remember Woodrow Wilson’s words, “The choices are ours.”

In the next few months, we will attend parades and events that will be honoring men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice and the birth of our nation. Let us all take time to do as the students did on June 14, 1777 – reflect on the meaning of our flag.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Donna Jensen
Department Chaplain
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And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. ~ James 5:15-16

I believe in the **power of prayer** and also believe it is a personal thing between you and your God, whoever that may be. Praying on a regular basis can form a habit that I find very beneficial.

There is no right or wrong way or time to say a prayer. As we age, what we pray for changes; for example, from “God, I want a new bike” to “God, give me healing from this illness, guidance for this decision or strength to get through this challenge.”

No one else can tell you if, when, how or what to pray for. There is no need to share what you pray for as that is between you and God. It is a special, personal thing for each individual and is based on their needs and desires. God says our prayers will be answered but sometimes the answer is “not now” or not what we thought we wanted. Sometimes it takes faith and patience to wait for an answer.

President’s Prayer Book
I am reminding everyone that I am putting together a prayer book for Auxiliary President Becky Mueller and am still looking for prayers, poems and inspirational pieces to include in it. They can be original or from another source, but please give the author and name, Unit and District number of the person submitting them. You can email me at: djensen20@gmail.com or mail to: Donna Jensen, 6936 N. 86th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53224. You can also send your Unit Prayer Books to me and there will be a small gift for the best book. The books will be returned to the units at Department Convention in July. Thank you.

Music:
I Say A Little Prayer
By: Burt Bacharach and Hal David - 1966
The moment I wake up,
before I put on my makeup,
I say a little prayer for you.
And while I’m combing my hair now,
and wondering what dress to wear now,
I say a little prayer for you.

Sweepstakes winners are posted at amlegionauxwi.org under the "More" tab.



GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

2025 Department Convention
Hyatt Regency / KI Center, Green Bay
July 17-20, 2025

Convention Highlights (subject to change):

Wednesday, July 16, 2025 – Joint Legion Family Testimonial

6:00 pm Social Hour/Cash Bar
7:00 pm Opening Ceremony/Family Style Dinner
(Must register to attend: www.wilegion.org)

Thursday, July 17, 2025

3:00 pm Past Presidents Parley (PPP) Business Meeting.
Are you a Past Unit, County, or District President? If so, you are eligible to join the PPP and participate in decisions about PPP dues, scholarships, and the Mentor of the Year award.
4:30 pm Election Instructions Meeting (for Judge of Elections, Credentials Chair, Department Tellers, and all District Presidents & District Pages).

Friday, July 18, 2025

9:15 am Opening Processional. General Session will open immediately following the procession.
Afternoon Membership report w/Awards, Nominations for Department & National Offices, and Tribute to Honored PDP Joan Chwala.

Saturday, July 19, 2025

8:00 am General Session.
9:00 am Elections of 2025-2026 Department Officers, National Executive Committee person, and nominees for Alternates for the 2025 National Convention. Installation of 2025-2026 Department Officers and District Presidents.
2:45 pm (ish) All Legion Family members are invited to a fun event with buffet, beverages and entertainment by Daddy Ds! Admission ticket (\$25) must be pre-purchased no later than June 30!
7:00 pm

Sunday, July 20, 2025

8:00 am Joint Memorial Service.
9:00 am Post-Convention Department Executive Board meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

Bonnie Dorniak
Executive Secretary/Treasurer
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May 23 was officially National Poppy Day. Units and posts that completed poppy distributions are reminded to submit their 20% poppy profit report to department headquarters as soon as possible. The report form can be obtained from the department website or by contacting Linda Cason at Auxiliary Headquarters. The remaining proceeds must be used for the welfare of veterans, active-duty military, and their families where a medical or financial need is evident. As a reminder, poppies can be distributed all year long!

The 2025 Department Convention will be held July 17-20, 2025 at the Hyatt Regency/KI Center in Green Bay. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Auxiliary, visit with old friends, and meet new ones. Delegate forms will be mailed to all unit presidents 30 days prior to convention (June 18, 2025) and should be completed and returned immediately. Registration is \$30, payable to The American Legion. Registrations received after July 7 are \$35. Please visit the department website for complete details.

The ALA National Convention is August 25 to August 27, 2025 in Tampa Bay, Florida. Details from the national organization will be posted on the department website when they become available (usually mid-June). Members interested in attending should contact Department Secretary Bonnie Dorniak at deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org if they want a registration packet.

Four ALA In The Know Conferences are scheduled each Saturday from September 13 through October 4. The reservation deadline is August 1. The reservation form was mailed to all units in April and is available on the department website under Programs > ALA In The Know.

ALABGS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:
SARAH GODLEWSKI

“American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State wasn’t just a leadership program – it was the spark for my career in public service. In 1999, I was thrilled to be selected as a delegate, but that excitement was met with doubts from male classmates who questioned whether women could succeed in politics. ALABGS showed me otherwise. Surrounded by other young women passionate about leadership and community service, I saw firsthand that we belonged in these spaces. I ran for Attorney General and lost, but that experience prepared me for the real world of politics – where perseverance is everything. ALABGS is more than a program – it’s a launching pad for the next generation of women in public service.”
Sarah Godlewski is a 2000 graduate of Memorial High School in Eau Claire

and holds a degree in Peace and Conflict Resolution from George Mason University. She also completed a national security fellowship with the Air War College and earned a certificate in Public Treasury Management from the National Institute of Public Finance and Pepperdine School of Management. Currently serving as Wisconsin’s 29th Secretary of State, Sarah previously served as Wisconsin’s State Treasurer from 2019 to 2023. In addition, she has been the Chair of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands since 2019, overseeing a \$1.5 billion trust fund that supports Wisconsin public schools and invests in local communities. Sarah lives in Madison with her husband Max, son Hartley, rescue dog Tanner, and rescue cat Macaroni & Cheese.



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wisconsin 2025 Scholarship Winners

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

H. S. & Angeline Lewis
(1) \$1,000 award – Graduate Student
No qualified applicant

H. S. & Angeline Lewis
(5) \$1,000 awards

Taiya Lang, Chili Marshfield #54-8
Kira Richardson, Chippewa Falls Chippewa Falls #77-10
Lillian Russow, Clintonville Caroline #456-8
Nykole Van Groll, River Falls Appleton #38-9
McKenna Wavrunek, Kewaunee Kewaunee #29-9

Merit & Memorial
(8) \$1,000 awards

Adalin Macauley

Miya Grunert, Ripon Ripon #43-6

Eleanor Smith

Jamie Damm, Columbus Columbus #62-2

Pearl Behrend

Kennedy Tenpas, Waupun Waupun #210-6

Barbara Kranig

MacKenzy King, Eleva Eleva #459-10

Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan

Anna Blair, Appleton Appleton #38-9

Diane Duscheck

Samuel Lipps, Onalaska Onalaska #336-7

Harriet Hass

Colleen Malueg, Caroline Caroline #456-8

Merit Scholarship

Grace Havel, Casco Luxemburg #262-9

Department Presidents
(3) \$1,000 awards

Taylor Doolittle, Cumberland Cumberland #98-10
Emma Lubinsky, Holmen Holmen #284-7
Kate Fechner, La Crosse West Salem #51-7

Van Deuren Memorial
(1) \$1,000 award

Lucas Stoen, Waunakee Waunakee #360-3

Past Presidents Parley
(3) \$1,000 awards

Nursing

Jacy Krueger, Waupun Waupun #210-6

Health Career

Hannah Dobish, Oshkosh Dept Headquarters #2930
Brinn Tedlie, New London DeForest #348-3

Child Welfare

(1) \$1,000 award

No qualified applicant

ALABGS SCHOLARSHIPS

Badger Girls State Scholarship
(6) \$500 awards

Samantha Andrea, Hertel
Kavari Brann, Green Bay
MacKenzy King, Eleva
Gabriella Stammer, Menasha
Amelia Werner, Grafton
Reghan Ziegler, Fond du Lac

Eileen Knox Memorial Scholarship
(1) \$500 award

Carlee Krueger, Seymour

**Harry & Shirley Kuehl
Foundation Scholarship**
(1) \$500 award

Hailey Treder, Princeton

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

**Children of Warriors National
Presidents' Scholarship**
– National Winner

(awarded \$5,000 from NHQ)
Eric Andreo, Chippewa Falls

Member Loyalty Scholarship
– National Winner
(awarded \$2,500 from NHQ)

Emily Fechner, La Crosse

**Non-Traditional Student
Scholarship**

No qualified applicant

**Spirit of Youth
for Junior Members Scholarship**

No qualified applicant



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
ALA IN THE KNOW

(Important Info for Every Member)

2025 REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 2025

(Please submit one form per person)

Members are encouraged to register early---space is limited! Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Registrations received after capacity is reached, will be returned. **No reservations will be accepted on site. Reservation deadline for all sessions is AUGUST 1.**

Session is \$25/person and includes morning refreshments, a light lunch, and program materials. Sessions will include information on a variety of topics and Auxiliary programs. New topics will be covered, so come out and join the fun!

Schedule for all conferences:

8:00 am – 9:00 am Registration/Morning Refreshments
9:00 am – 3:30 pm Informative presentation, lunch break, interactive program session, Q&A

Reservation deadline for ALL sessions: August 1, 2025

Please print clearly:

District #: _____ Unit #: _____ Unit City: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Email: _____ Preferred Ph: ☐ home ☐ cell: (____) _____

Please share one (1) question you would like addressed during the session: _____

Select One:

	DATE	LOCATION
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, 09/13/2025	American Legion Post 146 300 Beichl Avenue, Beaver Dam, WI
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, 09/20/2025	American Legion Post 98 1225 Veterans Street, Cumberland, WI
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, 09/27/2025	American Legion Post 59 803 N Page Street, Stoughton, WI
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, 10/04/2025	American Legion Post 175 302 N Union Street, Loyal, WI

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (\$25/person): \$_____

Mail check, payable to ALA-Wisconsin, **by August 1** to:

ALA Wisconsin
P. O. Box 140
Portage, WI 53901-0140.

*A \$25.00 fee will be charged for any
check returned by the bank.*

2025 Americanism Essay Winners

“What does America the Beautiful mean
to me (regarding Veterans and our military)?”

Class I – Grades 3 & 4

Mila Elbe Plum City #365
Isla Elchert Thorp #118
Isaiah Larsh Appleton #38
Anna Cuper Clear Lake #108
Sawyer Peterson Siren #132

Class IV – Grades 9 & 10

Holden Juip Port Washington #82
Josephine Vetterkind Thorp #118
Elise Kolar Butternut #272
Callen Drews Cambria #401
Mieka Kojima Menomonee Falls #382

Class II – Grades 5 & 6

Brieson Anderson Avoca #335
Aralynn Elfering Twin Lakes #544
Bluebell Gremminger Port Washington #82
Holden Oliphant Viola #447
Brynlee Mueller Richland Center #13

Class V – Grades 11 & 12

Karalyn Krubeck Cambria #401
Hannah Van Gelderen Menomonee Falls #382
Brent Abramczak Thorp #118
Lizzie Henn Plum City #365
Elyse Janssen King #161

Class III – Grades 7 & 8

Ethan Andresen Twin Lakes #544
Birdie Gremminger Port Washington #82
Justelle Ogden Plum City #365
Tenley Haas Thorp #118
Natalee Lueloff Butternut #272

Class VI

Carson Gooding Shiocton #512

TOMAH VA BABY NEEDS DRIVE

7th District held a Baby Needs Drive for the Tomah VA Women’s Clinic during their April 29 Spring Conference. Helene Stein, Tomah VA Hospital Rep; Jesse Elmhurst, 7th Dist President; Chet Faith, 7th District Commander; and Jim Johnson, 7th District SAL Commander; with some of the donations that took two car loads to deliver!



District 1 – Year in Review



Crystal Shaw
1st District
President

The theme was “May your Journey always lead you home.” First District VA&R Chair had a very special project and chose Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin as homeless Veterans are dear to our hearts. We worked together with the First District Legion Family and co-hosted a bowling fundraiser raising over \$4,000.

When Hurricane Helene hit, many of our units and counties truly felt for everyone affected. There were so many Legion families affected as well as Veterans. Many units and a few counties participated in efforts to help in any way that they could. This also really got units brainstorming for ways to support the Auxiliary Emergency Fund for President Becky’s special project.

Our District also participated in the 1st District POW/MIA Silent March. This is hosted by The American Legion 1st District and it is so meaningful to be able to participate in it as a family. Such perfect and needed year for the projects of choice! Thank you, Becky, for thinking of those members in need.

Be The One is so very important and makes the family closer. Members throughout the district show support in so many ways. They not only call and check on members of the Auxiliary but the whole Legion Family. I am very proud of our District’s support of this very needed program. Due to this mindset, members were kind, compassionate, and ready to recruit members. First District had over 60 new members this year and is still growing.

Through all of these amazing successes and so many more, I am so very proud to be part of First District and couldn’t have asked for a better First District leadership team and board!

District 2 – Year in Review



Sandy Mack
2nd District
President

Second District has been a pleasure to be a part of. Through this past year the units have been serving the Auxiliary mission. They have had spaghetti dinners, pork chop dinners, steak dinners, craft shows, Christmas craft making, rummage sales, pancake breakfasts, brat fries, fish dinners, car shows, fashion shows, meat raffles, bingo and more.

Units participated with the Trunk or Treat in Portage, participated in the Legion Riders Stu’s Cruise, while others joined the Riders at their stops to provide donations.

Members attended flag disposal ceremonies, Four Pillars ceremony/dinner, department convention, and national convention. Ozaukee County Unit 288 located in Cedarburg hosted an ALAITK, and some members attended the Midwinter Conference.

A training meeting was held throughout each county inviting Unit Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers to learn about the importance of each position. A mock meeting was also held whereas 2nd District Officers were asked to pick a folder, and that position would be their role to play; in the back of the room two members were causing distractions, demonstrating the objective of how that should be handled. Each of the 2nd District Program Chairs had the opportunity to get up and give a brief idea of what the program is, then we had Q&A. A Suicide Prevention Class was provided to the 2nd District Legion Family.

Thank you to my 2nd District family for the support and encouragement I have received. Your team spirit and the volunteer hours truly make a difference in the eyes of our Veterans, military and their families both at home and abroad from the very depth of your heart.

Together we can make a difference! Remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach our children the value of freedom!

District 3 – Year in Review



Noreen Schmidt
3rd District
President

The Third District members followed President Becky’s theme of “*Serving from the Heart.*” Members volunteered 29,734 hours serving our nation’s Veterans and active military, with \$49,767 total dollars spent. 9,255 poppies were distributed and raised \$24,262. One unit donated \$1,500 of their poppy money to the “Shield of Sisters.” Both senior and junior members came together to write valentines, Veterans Day, and Christmas cards with a personal message inside and sent to various Veterans’ care facilities. Food was collected and donated to the VA hospital’s food pantry in Madison, quilts and homemade cloth “goodie bags” filled with personal hygiene products, baby items and requested clothing items were also donated. Veterans taking part in the Badger Honor Flight or the Lone Eagle were remembered with cards and letters for their “mail call.”

Units prepared over 500 Purple-Up bags and donated \$1,400 to “Camp Serenity,” a youth camp for military kids supported by the Wisconsin Army National Guard at Camp American Legion. Units supported Kelley Nelson, author of “Brownie the War Dog” and Yaiyia Wischki with All 4Hope, Inc., an organization to stem the tide of bullying, self-harm and suicide in our youth, military and Veterans’ communities. Members support the monthly “Military Kids Group” in conjunction with the Army National Guard. Cookies were also donated to the 115th Fighter Wings’ Christmas party.

Community service is important to the Third District, as we work with the Rotary Holiday Lights in the park, the annual Salvation Army’s Christmas Bell Ringing project, and hosting an annual breakfast with a local Girl Scout Troop. We also work in conjunction with local VFW Posts’ fundraisers.

The good news is that one unit has revitalized with another in the process.

Third District truly serves from the heart!

District 4 – Year in Review



Kathy Grom
4th District
President

As I near the end of my two-year term, I would like to reflect on why we are all here. I want to talk about Service to Veterans. The ways we accomplish that are as varied as our individual personalities. This year we donated to children’s groups and held parties for the children of our Veterans. We celebrated birthdays and held memorial events when we were called on to do so.

We held food drives, craft fairs, rummage sales, and raffles. We made spaghetti dinners and pancake breakfasts. We cooked everything from hot dogs to soup to raise money. We volunteered at the VA hospital to serve those who need assistance. We partnered with our Legion Posts, our SALs, and our Legion Riders when

they needed a hand. We distributed lots of poppies and taught leadership and government through ALA Badger Girls State.

We find that we help ourselves when we help others. Volunteerism gives us a sense of purpose and there is no better recipient of our work than our Veterans, military and their families. It has been proven that our own mental health is fostered as we serve others. I want to thank you for all you’ve done in the spirit of service – your work is meaningful to those you serve.

This is the 100th anniversary of Camp American Legion and the 100th anniversary of the first official game of American Legion Baseball. The number 100 is also important as our 4th District went over the 100% membership mark! That hasn’t happened in quite a while. In a time when membership is declining nationally, it is a remarkable feat. We have proven ourselves to be capable and prepared to do anything we put our minds to and I cannot wait to see what we achieve next.

District 6 – Year in Review



Diane Steinert
6th District
President

This has been another busy and productive year for the Sixth District!

The Department Convention in Appleton offered a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our units. Several units received recognition for their outstanding contributions to our programs. Becky Mueller was installed as Department President and her theme, “Serving our Veterans, military, and each other from the depths of our hearts,” became the guiding focus for our ALA program work throughout the year.

Omro Unit 234 hosted both the Spring and Fall Conferences. It was encouraging to see representation from so many units, where District Chairs presented program highlights and units reported on their numerous activities, fostering a valuable exchange of information. A sincere thank you to Unit 234 for their hospitality in hosting these events.

The District Impact Report numbers were truly impressive. Our members dedicated over 15,000 volunteer hours to Veterans and active-duty personnel, more than 1,600 hours supporting military families, and nearly 24,000 hours invested in our communities. This level of commitment is genuinely inspiring and demonstrates the profound impact our members are making. It was a highly productive year!

The District also achieved significant success in membership. The rechartering of the Auxiliary Unit at Post 351 in Montello stands as a notable accomplishment, and having two counties and thirteen units already surpass 100% membership is outstanding. Our current second-place standing is a testament to the dedication and hard work of everyone involved. Let’s maintain this momentum!

I have thoroughly enjoyed connecting with so many dedicated individuals across the district. Your willingness to serve our Veterans, military personnel and their families, and our communities is deeply appreciated. Here’s to another remarkable two years serving as your District President!

2025 9-PIN TAP BOWLING TOURNAMENT RESULTS

(top 3 places in each category)

Team:

1st Place – (2619) Betty’s Foxy Bowlers, Unit 437 Mazomanie
2nd Place – (2418) Bowling Queen Wannabes, Unit 13 Richland Center
3rd Place – (2354) Bonduel Gals, Unit 217 Bonduel

Doubles:

1st Place – (1288) Diana Rittberg/Toni Moegenburg, Unit 355 Grafton
2nd Place – (1256) Tina Zander/Stacey Stuchliffe, Unit 437 Mazomanie
3rd Place – (1211) Kathy Olson/Joyce Janson, Columbia County

Singles:

1st Place – (820) Barbara Sigmund, Columbia County
2nd Place – (726) Diana Rittberg, Unit 355 Grafton
3rd Place – (722) Tina Zander, Unit 437 Mazomanie

All Events:

1st Place – (2316) Barbara Sigmund, Columbia County
2nd Place – (2263) Tina Zander, Unit 437 Mazomanie
3rd Place – (2048) Diana Rittberg, Unit 355 Grafton

District 7 – Year in Review

Jesse Elmhorst
7th District President

7th District has been busy working on many different projects. We have a unit that helps with a Feed My People program twice a month to help ensure community members aren't going hungry. We also have a couple units that fundraise for American Legion Softball teams, which is something that continues to grow in our area. We have several units doing holiday activities for the Veterans in their area, such as cards or gifts given out for the holidays or Veterans Day.

As a District, we have done a couple fundraisers that several units participated in. We donated several bags filled with basic necessities for homeless Veterans. We also did a Baby Shower Fundraiser where several units sent needed baby items to give to the Tomah VA for their Baby Shower Program. The program gives Veterans who are having babies some basic necessities to help offset the cost of baby coming. We also have several units that are putting on different activities for the children in their communities. We have activities with the Easter Bunny or Santa, just to name a few.

We also have a unit that does a membership drive by doing chicken dinner fundraisers and that has seemed to really help them get several members to pay right away. We had a unit ready to disband, but came back with full leadership and over 100% in membership, an accomplishment we are all so proud of.

These are just a few of the many different activities our units are doing to help enrich the lives of our Veterans and our communities.

District 8 – Year in Review



Linda Tryczak
8th District President

I would like to thank all the units and members for their support and encouragement during these last four years. I will miss everyone.

The units have been working hard on membership. As of May, the 8th District has six units at 100% and several units are within 1-3 members to reach 100%.

Everyone has been doing a fantastic job on fulfilling the ALA mission. From the year-end impact reports I received, members volunteered almost 17,000 hours for Veterans, over 4,500 hours for military families, and over 13,000 hours in our communities.

The Fall Conference was hosted by American Legion Post 492 and Auxiliary Unit 107 in Kronenwetter. Six units were represented with 16 people in attendance. 8th District Commander Adam Klapperich, Post 492 Commander Paul Gwindt, and Mosinee Mayor Brent Jacobson brought greetings. President Becky Mueller attended and talked about her special projects. District chairmen and unit reports were given. Reverend John Trewyn spoke about suicide prevention with Veterans' programs that he is leading at The High Ground in Neillsville. Detachment Commander Allen Watry brought greetings and spoke about the SAL. We then made flower tray favors.

We held an Executive Board meeting by teleconference in late December.

The Spring Conference was hosted by Waushara County Units Wautoma 317, Hancock-Coloma 343 and Wild Rose 370. Thirteen units, 43 members and two guests attended. We had greetings from Waushara County Administrator Megan Kapp, County Commander Nathan Coward, and District Commander Adam Klapperich. We had a presentation from Peter Running representing 8th District American Legion Riders for Wreaths Across America. Paul and Connie Dobbratz gave an interesting presentation on AARP Fraud Watch Network. We held elections with the following results: Kay Grosskopf-President, Fran Bender-1st Vice President/Membership, Christine Mertes-2nd Vice President, Lorrie Barber-Treasurer, Denise Belongia-Historian, Ruth Henkelman-Chaplain, and Amanda Szalewski-Secretary. One history book was submitted to Department.

District 9 – Year in Review



Sue Keyzer
9th District President

This year our executive team tried something new. Following along with the department incentives, we set up our own program. In keeping with the Noble 9th, we decided to give a prize of \$90 to the units in our district who met the membership incentives set by department. But then we threw in another stipulation. Of the \$90 prize, half would go to the unit and half would be donated to a local charity in honor of the unit. The units who won, Carlton 538 donated to Lakeshore Food Pantry, White Lake 524 donated to White Lake Food Pantry, Kewaunee 29 donated to the Kewaunee County Historical Society, and Forestville 372 donated to the Belgian Heritage Center. In this program the district gave back to the units and their local communities.

It also inspired our units. Almost half of our units are over 90% of goal and on the county level, Kewaunee County is over 100%. Washington Island Unit 402 was the winner of the Department Pulsation award and will be honored at Department Convention.

The Noble 9th District has been very active in 2024-2025. From Fish Boils to County Fairs, Golf Scrambles to Firemen's Picnics, our members worked the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. Our units participated in numerous parades, brat frys, Memorial and Veterans Day programs and meals. They sponsored girls to American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State, gave scholarships to graduating seniors and worked in the schools helping out wherever they were needed. This is only a small sample of the work that our members do to support the Veterans, their families and the communities that they live in.

District 10 – Year in Review



Mary Townsend
10th District President

The 10th District continues to be a shining star with excellence in all we do. The counties, units, and members are working the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary – serving the Veterans, military, and communities. Three counties worked on projects. St. Croix County Legion Family sent care packages to the troops of the 128th Infantry Battalion from New Richmond. Eau Claire County units worked on collecting supplies for the Bolton Refuge House, a domestic abuse treatment center. Barron County hosted an ALA In The Know Conference.

The units have been very busy with events and projects, with over 55,774 volunteer hours reported. Thirty-three ALA Badger Girls State delegates were sponsored. Education Chairman reported 34 scholarships awarded, for a total of \$11,625. Poppy distributions equaled \$48,471. Units donated supplies or money to Camp American Legion, Camp Victory, Homeless Women Veterans Grant Fund, Chippewa Falls Veterans Home, Minneapolis VA, and County VSOs. Many units donated to Department President Becky's special project – the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Some of the VA&R Service to Veterans projects included many Quilts of Valor (one member worked on quilts while undergoing leukemia treatments), holiday cards to Veterans, Wreaths Across America, driving Veterans to appointments, and one unit created a book to highlight local Veterans.

Community Service projects included Halloween events, Christmas events, booths at local fairs, marching in parades, caretakers at local parks, bell ringers, volunteering at churches and care facilities. We highlighted 14 Veterans in the "Highlight Our Heroes campaign." Ten units are 100% or above in membership. The District Red, White & Blue Awards presented: Independence Unit - Markers for Members project, Eleva Unit - Coffee with Veterans, and Colfax Unit - 400 Stars for Veterans. The 2025 Unit Member of the Year is from the 10th District, more details at State Convention.

Well done, Mighty 10th!

District 11 – Year in Review



Theresa Schindler
11th District President

Members of the "illustrious" Eleventh District have truly been 'Serving from the Heart' while working the ALA mission to love our Veterans, military, their families and our communities. President Becky Mueller spoke at Fall Conference and encouraged us to love and demonstrate kindness to each other while working together on our events and projects. Units and members did just that as they continued to enhance the lives of so many.

Seven of our 20 units attained over 100% in membership. Eight units achieved renewals in the 90% or 80% range. Thirteen units sent in year-end impact reports with hours and donations that showed generous love for our Veterans, military, and communities.

Kennan Unit 362 hosted the District Fall Conference. Two members of the Department Leadership team were guest speakers. They gave attendees direction on mentoring and finding leadership qualities in each individual member. Unit success stories were shared through oral reports and picture boards. A committee was formed to update the District's governing documents. A generous donation to Department President Becky's special project was approved. Joint time with the Legionnaires, food, games, songs, and raffles filled this beautiful autumn day in the Northwoods.

Fifield Unit 532 hosted the Spring Conference. The updated District Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules were approved. Program chairmen gave interesting reports and encouraged use of the department website for additional information. Unit leaders reported local activities and events while showing their beautiful display boards. These oral reports demonstrated member service from the 'depths of their hearts.' Guest speakers from the Helping Hands Quilt Group of Price County showed samples of beautiful patriotic quilts they make and donate to Veterans that go on the 'Never Forgotten Honor Flight.' Donations were made to Camp American Legion, ALA Badger Girls State, and the Helping Hands Quilt Group. The Legionnaires and SAL joined the ALA for lunch, raffles, and a memorial service for our deceased members. Sunshine, songs and games, friendships and hugs – all in all, a blessed spring day!

Warmer temperatures not only renew nature but encourage the ALA members of the Eleventh District as we continue to 'Serve our Veterans, Military and Each Other from the Depths of our Hearts.' Poppies are being distributed. New ideas are being brought into fruition. Our souls are being energized.

I am humbled to serve as President of this beautiful northern ALA District. Let's see many of you at Department Convention in Green Bay.

District 12 – Year in Review



Barb McDaniel
12th District President

Nice going District 12! This year has been a learning experience for me, and it appears the same for many members. The suggestion to use a monthly member tracking worksheet would be a tremendous help for the members completing your unit impact reports. This worksheet can be found on the department website (www.amlegionauxwi.org) under the Forms tab. Thank you all for your efforts and help.

Our units are small, but the range of programs chosen to participate in covers the entire list. The Poppy program made the top choice. Service for Veterans/Military won second place and the bronze award goes to Service for Youth. We have three units which stand out, per the reports I received. They are Grantsburg Unit 185, Cable Unit 487, and Spooner Unit 12.

The year ended on a sad/happy note. Our district lost two units (Centuria Unit 346 and Minong Unit 465), but regained a rechartered unit – Webb Lake Unit 403. Congratulations and welcome back!!!



Jim Johnson
Department
Commander

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Wisconsin American Legion Family,
As you read this issue of the *Badger Legionnaire*, we are well into our busy summer season. June began with a flurry of events: Badger Boys State, the 100th anniversary celebration of Camp American Legion, the Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy, the Cruise for a Cause *Be The One 2025 Ride*, and a visit from our National Commander. Looking ahead, July brings our Department Convention, an event that promises to be both enjoyable and informative. It also marks the close of my term as your Department Commander and the beginning of a new leadership team for 2025-2026.

Throughout this past year, I've been blessed with an outstanding and supportive team. Our Department Vice Commanders stepped up in every way, providing steadfast support and leadership. I am humbled by their unwavering commitment to the Wisconsin American Legion. Our Department Officers have always answered the call, offering guidance, logistical help, and spiritual support. Your District Commanders have

asked the tough questions, contributed innovative ideas, and played an integral role in making Wisconsin *#LegionStrong*.

Fellow Legionnaires, thank you for making me proud to serve as your Department Commander. Your dedication, compassion, and tireless efforts have made us stronger and better prepared to serve our fellow Veterans. During my visits, you welcomed me warmly and made me feel right at home. When this journey began, I didn't expect to know many people. But as I moved from post to post, I found myself leaving with new friends and fond memories. Thank you.

I opened this article with "Wisconsin American Legion Family" because I truly believe we are a family. A family shares love, support, communication, trust, and values. To accomplish our mission, I've leaned on that family and felt its support every step of the way. Thank you, each one of you, for making a lasting, positive impact on my life.

With sincere gratitude,

Jim Johnson
Department Commander
The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin



Becky Mueller
2024-2025
Department
President

PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE

Greetings! Spring Conferences are over – what wonderful reports our units, counties, and districts made. You have accomplished so much! Thank you for your invitation to celebrate with you. You are truly amazing.

Final reports have been sent in and reviewed. The numbers are being counted. Your impact is amazing. These reports are forwarded to the national organization and then on to Congress. Congratulations and well done!

Summer is coming – but that doesn't mean we get to take it easy – things in the Auxiliary are heating up. ALA Badger Girls State is just around the corner. The craziest, busiest week of our calendar. One you will not regret, once you get rested up again! Then on to Department Convention where we will celebrate our members and the difference each of them has made in the lives of others. Finally, off to National Convention – a week in Tampa Bay, Florida. What a way to end the summer.

I can't thank you enough for the ways you have embraced my theme of *serving from the depths of your hearts*. You have reached deep inside yourselves to be generous, loving and caring for each other. You have made a difference. You have helped so many people with your overwhelming support of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. People you will never meet or get to know, but they know you from your heartfelt gifts. Your support and willingness to learn more about our MIA/POWs is impressive. Letting those families know that we care and that we are going to hold our government accountable to bring them all home is so important. Continue to reach out and advocate for those families. They are part of our family. Thank you from the depth of my heart.

New change is coming again – new leadership on all levels, new themes, new projects, new goals and objectives. A challenging time to shift gears and refocus. But what an opportunity to once again be innovative and creative! To explore and challenge ourselves to continue to fulfill our mission and vision. To continue to *Serve our Veterans, our Military, and Each Other from the depths of our hearts*.

God bless each one of you and your families.



Allen Watry
SAL Detachment
Commander

SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

It is hard to believe we are almost at the end of this Administrative Year, which is also the end of my second term. In my first *Badger Legionnaire* article (way back in August 2023) I suggested success over coming years could be measured by the following 3 bullet points:

- Staying focused on what we are already doing well. We will continue to grow our membership, turn ALF into a National Program, and continue to expand Freezing for a Reason.
- Growing the visibility of the Sons of

the American Legion in Wisconsin. We will strengthen our connections inside and outside of the Legion Family. We will be visible in our communities and the Legion Family. And we will continue to be Proud of what we do!

- Supporting those in need in our communities as a part of the Be The One Campaign.

I would like to personally thank everyone for all your hard work and dedication over the last two years. What I have witnessed as I have traveled around Wisconsin the last 2 years suggests we have been very successful. Thank you for your efforts and dedication to our Mission. You have definitely "adopted in letter and spirit all of the great

principles for which the American Legion stands and you are assisting in carrying on for God and Country."

Very soon we will be holding our Summer Convention in Green Bay. While Convention is a time which we need to conduct key business (including the election of our next Detachment Commander), it is also a time to celebrate our accomplishments. Please consider attending and celebrating with us!!

Keep up the great work and see you at Summer Convention!!

For God and Country,

Allen Watry
WI SAL Detachment Commander.



Corey Doehrmann
State Director
American Legion
Riders Association

LEGION RIDERS DIRECTOR

Hello Summer! My fellow Wisconsin Legion Family, I am very happy that summer has finally arrived. There is something about the sunshine and warmer weather that really energizes me, and not just because I can get out on my motorcycle. Okay, so that may only be half true but summer is when most of the Legion Riders work is accomplished. We just had our May quarterly meeting on the 3rd, thank you to Norris-Spencer Post 263 in New London for hosting us! At that meeting, we had the honor of having Department Commander Jim Johnson visit and conduct the swearing in of our new officers. Our terms are a bit different from the American Legion; they will run May 2025 – April 2027. I am very honored to have been elected to a second term as Director. One of the goals I will continue to focus on is connecting the rider districts across the state more tightly, encouraging them to work together. To that end, we will have our third annual social ride-in. This year is again at Hoozels at the Lakes on August 2, so if you are a rider,

put that date on your calendar and join in. Another goal is to continue building the connections among our American Legion Family because I firmly believe we are stronger when we work together.

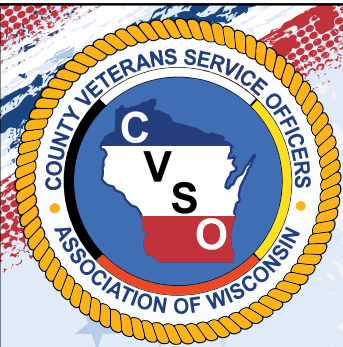
The Wisconsin Legion Riders – Cruise for a Cause, 'Be The One for WI – 25' will be happening shortly after you receive this publication on June 27-29. Follow our website (<http://www.alrawis.org/C4C/index.html>) and Facebook page (American Legion Riders Wisconsin) for all the updates as we travel throughout Districts 2, 3, 7, 10, 11 and 8. We would love to see you at one of our stops or as we travel through your community. We will be using an app this year called Spotwalla that will allow you to visit a webpage and follow our progress in real time. It will update our location every 5 minutes while we are moving and we can post pictures there as well.

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. Our next meeting/event after the publication of this will be at 12 noon. on August 2 at Hoozels at the Lakes.

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