



# BADGER LEGIONNAIRE

& WISCONSIN VOL 102 #2 | APRIL 2025



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

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

## COME AND JOIN THE FAMILY

### Green Bay to host 106th Convention, 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!**

**Wednesday, July 16** is move in and set-up 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 can be found at [wilegion.org/department-convention](https://wilegion.org/department-convention).

**Thursday, July 17** 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.

**Friday, July 18** 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



**Jim Johnson**  
Department Commander



**Becky Mueller**  
Department President



**Allen Watry**  
SAL Detachment Commander



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

their hospitality rooms and networking with your fellow Veterans.

**Saturday, July 19** will begin with voting on the Leadership for

2025/2026. After voting, join us for another exciting General Session. 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** 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/department-convention>.

**See Convention Registration form, Page 7.**

Non Profit Org  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Janesville, WI  
Permit 2930

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



Daddy Ds Productions will perform Saturday night.



“Badger Legionnaire”  
& “Wisconsin”

The Badger Legionnaire & Wisconsin are the official publications of the Wisconsin American Legion Family and are published six times annually, by the American Legion, Department of Wisconsin

Post Master: Send address changes to Badger Legionnaire and Wisconsin, P.O. Box 388, Portage, WI 53901

“Badger Legionnaire”

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

Executive Editor  
**Sheri Hicks**

**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

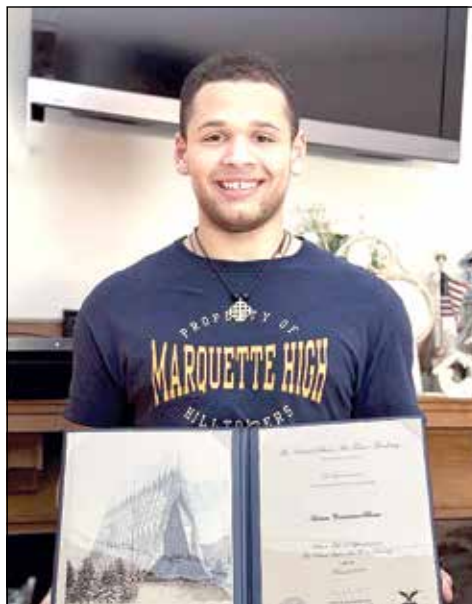
The “Wisconsin” deadline for copy is 4 weeks before publication date.

**BADGER BOYS STATE**

**LESSONS IN MAKING CHANGE AT BBS**

By **Zac Dickhut**

With five pennies, you have a nickel. Five of those gets you a quarter. Four quarters and you have a dollar. While this is a lesson which we hope our citizens already know when they arrive at Eau Claire, Badger Boys State brings a whole new meaning to making change to the citizens who spend the week with us. Our program teaches young citizens of Wisconsin the practical side of government, among other things. We teach about the three equal branches of government, and the various levels of governing bodies, from local all the way up to federal. The citizens can run for offices, give speeches, and vote for their desired policies through the candidates who support them. Sure, while several of our alumni go on to seek public office, we recognize that the vast majority do not. This brings us to the lesson we instill within every citizen to set them up for success in the future: different ways to make change.



**Andrew Blount, a 2024 Badger Boys State citizen and member of the Color Guard, has been accepted at the Air Force Academy.**



Our American system of government that so many fought to establish and protect allows each citizen to make for themselves a better life, a better community, state, and world. It is our job to teach them the power they’ve been granted. It is surprising to many that a lot of these things can be accomplished without getting elected to public office. What’s more—it doesn’t need to be inherently political. Just as pennies gathered can make nickels, and so on, citizens gathered can make bigger change, too.

Writing your legislators, signing a petition, attending and speaking at public meetings, displaying a campaign sign, and the simple act of voting are all great examples of bringing about change at the individual level. With a few individuals put together, a nonviolent protest, picking up trash, volunteering at

an animal shelter, and a host of other group activities can make tremendous community change—and bring some fun along for the ride.

At the state and national levels, getting involved in any number of organizations—either nonprofit or political—that align with one’s own beliefs. Lobby policy makers, share perspectives with others, and advocate for your positions at all levels of government. All these tools at all levels can be effective for any citizen to make change.

So, while the running for office, giving speeches, and asking for votes are all fun and important learning at BBS, the lessons in making change are what we believe linger long after the session is over. We make sure that training the leaders of tomorrow includes all the ways we can make change. For us, it only makes sense.



**STARTING A NEW AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL TEAM**

From time to time, Department Headquarters receives requests from posts and the general public about starting a new American Legion baseball program. Below are steps to take and what is required when forming a new team. Initial steps include:

- Contact WALBA Commissioner Dan Lukes at [dan.lukes@snc.edu](mailto:dan.lukes@snc.edu)
- Review national and state rules from the handbooks located at: <https://wilegion.org/legion-baseball>
- Determine if you will be a 19U team (senior team) or have a 17U or 16U team (junior teams)
- Register a user email account at <https://baseball.legion.org>
- Complete the new team application form
- Begin the team registration process at <https://baseball.legion.org>

Registration opens January 1 each year and closes in mid-May. Game scheduling for the upcoming summer is typically concluded by the end of January.

All adults involved with the program must pass a background check and complete abuse training through The American Legion.

Funding for your program varies depending on how much program you want. Some communities in Wisconsin field up to four teams in their program, while others may simply have one junior team. Legion posts can sponsor teams, or if no post exists or is willing to sponsor a team in a community, outside sponsorship is allowed.

Detailed information on Wisconsin’s American Legion Baseball program is located at: <https://wilegion.org/legion-baseball>





# MIDWINTER DONATIONS BENEFIT PILLARS ADULT AND FAMILY SHELTER

Story and Photos By: Catherine Kutzleb  
Appleton American Legion Post 38

What does the American Legion and Pillars Adult and Family Shelter have in common? The answer is— a mutual desire to help Veterans and others in need in the Appleton area who may be struggling with housing insecurity; and to help an organization within our own community bringing awareness to homelessness, especially during the winter months.

In January, The Wisconsin American Legion held its Midwinter Conference in Appleton at the Hilton Paper Valley Hotel and Convention Center. Almost 600 Legionnaires and Legion Family members attended the event. During the conference, Legion Family, which includes Legion members, Auxiliary members, Sons of the American Legion and Legion Riders, came together collecting items for our local shelter,

which provides to individual and family shelters. This year the 9th District decided that Pillars would be the recipient of the donation.

Pillars has long served the Appleton community, which includes Veterans who may be experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. According to Pillars' Development Manager Emily Boettcher, Pillars helped 56 Veteran clients for Fiscal Year 2024.

Pillars' vision is "envison a creative, compassionate community that collaborates to find innovative, effective solutions so experiences of homelessness are rare and brief and everyone has a place to call home."

Our donation included a substantial sock donation from Wigwam Socks, which are desperately needed during the cold winter months. Appleton American Legion Post 38 personnel put together 15 laundry baskets, which included bath towel sets and various personal items, some with a focus on women's health and wellness. Numerous items



were donated in accordance with requests from the 6 Pillars locations throughout the Appleton area.

Once the items were collected, they were loaded onto a truck and delivered to Pillars by 9th District 2nd Vice Commander Migeal Babino, Kennan Post 362 Commander Rosanna Bogle and Sergeant-at-Arms Larry Bogle, and Appleton's Post 38 Communications Director Catherine Kutzleb. All items donated were graciously received by Pil-

lars staff members Nikki, Lauren, Emily, and Rye.

The Pillars' staff on duty remarked this was one of the largest single donations received, noting the donation would benefit many individuals at all of their facilities. The smiles in the photos capture the joy of both giving and receiving, especially when donations are desperately needed.

To learn more about this valuable program or to donate please visit [pillarsinc.org](http://pillarsinc.org).

# TWO LIGHTS FOR TOMORROW: HONORING HISTORY, UNITING FOR THE FUTURE

The events that sparked the War for Independence in April of 1775 near Boston are immortalized in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's famous poem, "Paul Revere's Ride," with the line "One if by land, Two if by sea." Now, 250 years later, we come together not only to

remember that historic night but to reflect on why it matters today. It's not enough to remember history for history's sake; we must make it meaningful and relevant to our lives now.

The signal sent from the North Church's steeple that night, "One if by land, Two if by

sea," was more than just a warning. It was a call for unity and action—an urgent message to spread far and wide. As we mark the 250th anniversary of this pivotal moment, we continue to honor the same values: unity, community, and service.

supporting a community project, your service will strengthen the fabric of our society.

The American Legion Family, which has long been dedicated to community service, is a key part of this initiative. But this call to action is for everyone. We all have a role to play in supporting one another and fostering unity.

## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PLUS

Helps you handle almost any crisis when you're away from home.



From Your American Legion Department



Travel confidently with EA+

### Two Lights for Tomorrow: A Call for Action

As part of this commemoration, the Wisconsin America 250 Commission is calling on all Wisconsinites to participate in the Two Lights for Tomorrow initiative. On the evening of April 18, 2025, we are asking homes, community buildings, churches, American Legion Posts, and businesses across the state to display two lights. These lights will symbolize the spirit of Paul Revere's ride and remind us that the message of hope, unity, and action is just as important today as it was then.

These two lights will shine as a beacon of our shared commitment to preserving the values that make our nation strong. They are a reminder that, like Revere's ride, the call to action is still needed today to safeguard our nation's future.

### A Day of Service: April 19, 2025

In addition to the light display, the America 250 Commission is also designating April 19, 2025, as a Day of Community Service. On this day, we are encouraging individuals and groups across Wisconsin to engage in acts of service for their communities. Whether it's helping a neighbor, cleaning Veteran memorials, or

### Join Us in Celebrating Our Shared History and Future

The National American Legion's 250th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee, led by Chair PNC Dan Seehafer and Vice Chair PNC Denise Rohan, is working to engage communities at every level leading up to our nation's 250th birthday in 2026. Through events like Two Lights for Tomorrow, we aim to raise awareness about the values of justice, freedom, and democracy—values that continue to shape our nation today.

We invite you to participate in this important initiative. Display two lights on the evening of April 18, 2025, and take part in the Day of Service on April 19. Together, we can honor our nation's past and ensure a brighter future. For more information on how to get involved, visit the Wisconsin American 250 Commission's website at <https://wisvetsmuseum.com/america250/> or learn more about the American Legion's plans at [legion.org](http://legion.org).

Please post stories and photos of your events at <https://www.legiontown.org/usa-250> and share on your social media pages.

Let's shine a light on our shared values, unite in service, and make a lasting difference in our communities.







9th District members staffed the coat room at the Green Bay RV & Camping Expo at the Resch Center.



## AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY IS VISIBLE AT GREEN BAY RV & CAMPING EXPO

Department of Wisconsin American Legion Family members were visible and present during the Green Bay RV & Camping Expo held at the Resch Center January 30 through February 2.

The event was coordinated by the Department Marketing & Communications Committee and supported by 2nd, 6th and 9th District Legion Family members who staffed the Resch Center coat room and interacted with Expo attendees and vendors.



Also taking turns at the Green Bay RV & Camping Expo were Post 165 Two Rivers (above) and Post 477 St. Nazianz (below).



## CRUISE FOR A CAUSE 'BE THE ONE FOR WI' RIDE SET FOR JUNE

The Wisconsin Legion Riders are planning a three-day motorcycle ride, the Wisconsin Legion Riders – Cruise for a Cause, “Be the One for WI – 25”, June 27 -29, 2025. The purpose is threefold: raise awareness, raise money for training/equipment and send Veterans to Camp American Legion. The Legion Riders are promoting this event; however, it is truly a family affair. We will have Department Commander Jim Johnson, Department President Becky Mueller and Detachment Commander Allen Watry riding with us as we travel through the state.

**Phase I:** Raise Awareness – Day after day many Veterans continue to face battles brought on by their experiences in the service. For many it is a battle they face alone while trying to put on a strong exterior for those around them. For fellow Veterans and citizens, it is important that we acknowledge that their struggle is real and that it’s ok for them to ask for help. Many do not make it through because they think they are all alone. Together we can Be the One to save a life.

**Phase II:** Raise funds for

training/equipment – The action phase consists of training and equipping our Legion Family volunteers with the tools to best respond to Veterans’ needs. Training will take a multifaceted approach tailored to the level of involvement. As a resource for nonsuicidal Veterans that call 988 and just want to talk, will require basic intervention training.

**Phase III:** Send Veterans to Camp American Legion – Sending at risk Veterans to Camp American Legion can provide a peaceful Northwoods experience. This environment is conducive to providing stress reduction. Camp American Legion is a safe place to share experiences and for Veterans to receive or provide support from nonjudgmental peers.

**Ways for you to get involved:** Ride with us for all three days or for any part you can. Donate in person at a stop or by making a check out to “Be the One for WI – 25” and mailing it to PO Box 827, Portage, WI 53901. Donate online at the QR code below. Share our sponsorship form with people



or businesses that you know, your support along the way. become a sponsor yourself, ask Greet us at a stop or along our your Legion Family (Post/Unit/ route. Share our event posters Squadron) to solicit a donation. and Facebook posts to increase the audience we reach. Any amount is greatly appreciated. Even if you can’t ride with us, come out and show

Email questions to: wialra.c4c@gmail.com

### TO DONATE



### FOR RIDE INFO



## McFARLAND SAL SQUAD 534 FUNDRAISER

McFarland residents and neighbors help Sons of American Legion at McFarland Post 534 raise \$3,500 for local school shooting victims.



## 75 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP



Portage American Legion Post 47 Commander Dean Simonson presenting member Bill Welsh a certificate honoring his 75 years of continuous membership in the American Legion. Also pictured is Bill's son, Pete.

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



## POST 151 HONORS WWII MEMBER ON 100TH BIRTHDAY

American Legion Westside Memorial Post 151 recently honored longtime post member Leland Stafford, who celebrated his 100th birthday with family and friends on February 15, 2025. Stafford, born in 1925, enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force in 1943 and served until discharge in 1946, attaining the rank of master sergeant.

At his birthday celebration, Leland reminisced about his WWII pilot training. In 1944, he was serving as an airman at Traux Field, Madison, when he got orders to report to a Florida base for flight training. Leland's pilot training ended mid-course since the need for pilots had diminished by 1945. He was happy, however, to be the first of his fellow enlisted cadet pilots to fly solo before flight training ended. He was then re-assigned to electronics where he underwent an FBI background check as he would be trained in IFF (Identification Friend or Foe). Leland finished his WWII duty as an MP.

Later, Leland enlisted in the Wisconsin Army National Guard in 1953 and served another 11 years while raising his family and serving as a Madison Police Department patrolman and investigator.

At Leland's centenarian celebration, Post 151 members took the opportunity to present him a shadow box that displays his decorations, shooting badges, rank and unit insignia he earned during his WWII and post-war service.



Post 151 Adjutant Chris Ogden (L) and 1st Vice Commander Mike George (R) present Leland Stafford a shadow box that tells the story of his military service.

## 60 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP



Portage American Legion Post 47 Commander Dean Simonson presenting Dale Gray a certificate for 60 years of continuous membership in the American Legion.

## POST 435 DONATIONS TO VETERANS HOMES

Randy Freeman, Sgt-at-Arms for the Richard I. Bong Post 435 in Superior presented a \$500 check to Randall Walz, Director of Public Relations at Silver Bay Veterans Home. The Post also forwarded a check for \$500 to the Wisconsin Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls, WI. Pictured on the left is Randy Freeman presenting the check to Randall Walz.



## ARMY-NAVY GAME BE THE ONE WISCONSIN DONATION



Department Commander Jim Johnson received a donation from Department Vice Debbie Thomas for Be The One Wisconsin in the amount of \$2,200 from donations from a fundraiser during the Army vs. Navy football game in December, a collaborative venture of AMVETS #11, Green Bay American Legion Post 539 and the Navy League.





Post 234 Omro recognized Rick Deiss on January 22 as the 2024 Legionnaire of the Year. He received his plaque from Omro American Legion Daugherty-Hamilton Post 234 Commander Laura Heried.

## POST 234 HONORS LEGIONNAIRE

The American Legion had much to celebrate in its 2024 Legionnaire of the Year.

“Holy cow! This man has done a lot for the community and for The American Legion.”

Deiss was recognized for his outstanding leadership and service as a member of The American Legion “benefiting our Community, State, and Nation,” read the plaque.

The words of praise and deep

appreciation were from Omro Legion Post Commander Laura Heried during the Wednesday, January 22 celebration with Omro American Legion Daugherty-Hamilton Post 234, recognizing recipient Rick Deiss.

Among his continuing duties and responsibilities, Deiss serves as the Omro Legion Post Finance Officer, noted Commander Heried, who added, “Rick, thank you very much for all you do.”

## POST 410 AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP



American Legion Post 410 Fredonia presented Caitlyn Weyker (right) a scholarship from the Post. Caitlyn is a freshman at University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh studying accounting. The scholarship check is presented by Rick Nelson (left), Post Commander of Post 410.

## ORATORICAL WINNERS CROWNED ACROSS STATE



ABOVE: The 3rd District Oratorical Contest had four contestants. From left to right are 3rd District Cdr. Dan O’Brien, Abigail, Wyatt (placed first), Grant, Josie, DVC Jerry Hook and 3rd District Oratorical Chair Peter Herman. All of the participants did well and knew their history! This competition took place at the Marshall Post 279 from noon to about 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 22. Wyatt will represent the 3rd District at the Regional Contest in Ripon on March 29. BELOW LEFT: Hazel Skarlupa was named as the winner for the 7th District Oratorical Competition on February 22 held at Post 100 in Sparta. BELOW RIGHT: Abigail Biank was the Oratorical Contest winner for New Glarus Post 141. Congratulations as she prepares for the next step in the American Legion Oratorical contest. We send her our best wishes specifically for this great adventure and for the rest of her personal and professional endeavors. Ms. Biank received the award from Post 141 Vice Commander Hodgson.



## BERLIN POST 340 MEMBERS ATTEND QPR TRAINING

On January 11, Berlin Post 340 members attended QPR Training.

What is QPR? Suicide prevention, QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Similar to CPR, QPR is an emergency response to someone in a mental health crisis, it can and does save lives every day.

According to the National Institute for Mental Health and the CDC, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in the United States for youth ages 10-14 and young adults age 25-34. Suicide is the leading cause of death among Veterans under 45 years old. The course was offered at no cost and it provided our Veteran community with the tools we need to respond to this significant crisis.







# 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](http://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 Barrell of Beer, Soda, cash bar and Live Entertainment by Daddy Ds-Doors open at 6:30 PM- Deadline June 30, 2025		\$30.00/person	
		<b>Total Enclosed:</b>	

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](mailto:angie@wilegion.org)

## HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF PROVIDED BY TWO WISCONSIN POSTS

Two American Legion Posts join forces to provide relief to Hurricane Helene's continuing impact on Western North Carolina.

Hurricane Helene, a formidable storm that struck western North Carolina in late September 2024. Helene's trajectory took it through the Caribbean and along the southeastern United States, with its remnants eventually reaching western North Carolina. The hurricane's powerful winds, exceeding 100 mph, caused extensive damage creating large amounts of debris. The most significant impact of Helene on western North Carolina was the immense rainfall leading to accumulations of over 15 inches in some areas, which led to catastrophic flooding, inundating homes, farmland, and infrastructure.

Flooding led to the contamination of water bodies with sediments, pollutants, and debris. Floodwaters devastated crops and livestock, leading to substantial losses for farmers. Damage to roads, bridges, and buildings disrupted transportation and communication networks. Flooding and wind damage left many residents homeless or displaced. Temporary shelters were set up, but the process of rebuilding and returning to normalcy was slow and challenging. Local organizations, volunteers, and government agencies worked together to provide relief and support recovery efforts.

By early October Post 116 in Fuquay-Varina, NC, was al-



ready in action and the Legion stated the following, "Post 116 in Fuquay-Varina is hosting a donation drive to help those affected by flooding in western North Carolina." This call was picked up by the Olson-Grinde-O'Donnell Post 348 in DeForest WI, and a monetary donation of the post was matched by individual donations of post members and hand delivered by two Post 348 officers who own a second home in North Carolina.

In January 2025, the knitting group at Christ Lutheran Church, DeForest, WI produced nineteen quilts and two baby-sized quilts for the relief effort, since the weather, particularly in the higher elevations has gotten quite cold. Post 348 provided shipping and they were received by the Fuquay-Varina Post and will be sent to needy individuals and families in the affected area.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



## RIVER FALLS CHAMBER HONORS

Commander Larry Larson of Post 121, River Falls, accepting the award for Nonprofit of the Year at the 2025 River Falls Chamber of Commerce awards banquet on February 6, 2025!

## CHAIRS FOR CAMP AMERICAN LEGION

Orfordville Post 209 has donated and delivered 45 metal frame chairs to Camp American Legion for the Recreation Center. Pictured with CAL Director Jim Klement are Post 209 members ANEC Karl Stuvengen and Past Post Commander Kurt Stuvengen.



## RUSK COUNTY WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



The Bruce American Legion, Earl J. Conley Post 268 provided honor guard, prayer and taps for seven different Rusk County Wreaths Across America ceremonies, remembering and honoring 680 Veterans.





## RHINELANDER VETERANS DAY



Northwoods Honor Guard Post Colors at the Rhinelander Jr. High Veterans Day ceremony. Rhinelander American Legion Post 7 Commander Bob Smith calling commands. The flags are carried by VFW Post 3143, AMVETS Post 724, DAV Chapter 62, and NCO club members.

## WAUNAKEE POST 360 HONOR GUARD



Members of the Waunakee American Legion Post 360 honor guard presenting honors to 79-year Legion member, Bud Zander.

## MILWAUKEE HOMELESS VETERANS INITIATIVE



As part of our annual fundraising efforts, Squadron 522 in Hubertus donated a check to a very worthy organization. Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative: A \$2,000 check was donated to MHVI representative Cheryl Jacobs (2nd from left), by the Squadron donation committee.



## POST 487 AT CABLE FOURTH OF JULY PARADE



Robert "Bob" Nagel was selected by the Cable Area Chamber of Commerce as the 2024 Grand Marshal at the Fourth of July parade in Cable, WI. Bob is the oldest living WWII Veteran from the American Legion Stokes-Liebman Post 487 in Cable at 100 years old and has been an American Legion member for over 75 years! He was accompanied by Post 487 member Frank Bigott, who drove the 1952 Willys M38A1 jeep. The American Legion Families of Cable, WI (487) and Hayward, WI (218) had the honor of escorting Veteran Bob Nagel during the parade where he was recognized for his service to our Country.

*Photos by Julie Horn-Frierhood.*



## SONS SQUADRON 258 DONATES TO ELDER CARE CENTER

Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 258 in Little Chute, donated to St. Paul Elder Care in Kaukauna. The donation of \$500 is set to be used to assist Veterans at St Paul Elder Care with personal needs and Veteran gatherings.

Josie Troullier, the Director of Therapeutic Recreation and Volunteer Services, was presented the check by American Legion Post 258 Commander Maranda Wendel and Third Vice Commander Joe Ryba. Also in attendance were Marty Huss, Past Commander, and Tom Siebers, First Vice Commander.

St. Paul Elder Services has specialized programs and

facilities specifically designed to enhance the lives of aging individuals. They take care of our elders in various ways, with rehabilitation centers, assisted living, memory care facilities, adult day services, and more. Within these various services they take care of the needs of approximately 25 Veterans.

Sons of American Legion Post 258's long-standing mission is to serve Veterans, service members and their families. Sons of The American Legion Members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership.



## SCARLET GUARD AMERICAN LEGION COLOR GUARD PERFORMS LOCALLY

The Scarlet Guard American Legion Color Guard is a unit open to members of any American Legion Post, American Legion Auxiliary Unit, and Sons of the American Legion Squadron. The current roster has members that live in and/or represent American Legion Post families in Appleton, Menasha, Neenah, Little Chute, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Freedom, Wrightstown, Fremont, and Mountain.

During the 2025 high school basketball season, the Scarlet Guard American Legion Color Guard presented the colors at a dozen boys and girls varsity games throughout the Appleton/Fox Cities area. The response and respect from the students, faculty, parents, and other fans was astounding at each game. These appearances provided tens-of-thousands of positive impressions for the American Legion family and the color guard's mission of honoring the colors, promoting patriotism, and the importance of saluting our Veterans.

**FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:** Scarlet Guard Appleton West basketball game 2025, Scarlet Guard Appleton North basketball game, Scarlet Guard Appleton East basketball 2025.

*Photo credits to Lori Fahrenholz, Andrea Malnar, and Lori Hansel.*

Anyone interested in joining the Scarlet Guard American Legion Color Guard should reach out to Eric Stadler at 920-450-6907 or [eric.stadler1@gmail.com](mailto:eric.stadler1@gmail.com) for more information. Follow and Like the Scarlet Guard Color Guard page on Facebook.



## ALGOMA LIONS DONATION TO POST 236



The Algoma Lions Club made a generous \$650 donation to the Algoma American Legion Post 236. Pictured is Lions member Lisa Haasch presenting the check to Post Commander Mike Froelich. Also present are Lions Margo Rouse, Kelli Hackett, Laurie Schinderle and Post members Mando Cassas, Chip Grosshuesch, Jeff Ferris, John Ortlieb and CJ Schmidt.

## POST 534 ACHIEVES TOP 15 PERCENT



Congratulations McFarland American Legion Edwards-Foye Post 534 for being in the top 15 percent of more than 15,000 organizations that held welcome home events for Vietnam Veterans.

## POST 534 HOSTS FLAG DISPOSAL CEREMONY

481 flags were disposed of at the American Legion Edwards-Foye Post 534 in McFarland. Left to right is Zach Beek, Michael Brennan, Cory Gessler, Scott Miller, Dale Sankey and Steve Halverson.



## DISTRICT 11 RIDERS RETIRE COLORS



District 11 American Legion Riders Retire Colors for Wreaths Across America.





## WDVA SECRETARY

**James Bond**  
WDVA  
Secretary  
-designee

As Secretary, one of my top priorities is advocating for programs that benefit Wisconsin's Veterans and strengthening the vital partnerships that make our work possible.

That is why I am so grateful for the relationship we've built with the American Legion. Together, we are stronger, and that strength is essential in protecting and supporting our most vulnerable Veterans.

Governor Evers shares that commitment to supporting partnerships. It's why he has, once again, submitted a budget that provides funding for the expanded Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP). This innovative program, one of the first of its kind in the nation, exemplifies the power of collaboration in delivering life-changing services to Wisconsin Veterans.

VORP bridges the gaps that too often leave Veterans struggling alone. VORP outreach coordinators work with County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers, law enforcement, nonprofits, VSOs, and community organizations to maximize resources. They help Veterans secure housing, access mental healthcare, find employment, and navigate complex systems that can be overwhelming. They don't wait for Veterans to come to them; they travel across multiple counties, building trust and breaking barriers.

Currently, we have 16 regions with a coordinator in each region, connecting Veterans to community services and providing case management and support in each of those regions. VORP also has 4 clinical coordinators and 2 program supervisors who are key in delivering these Veteran services. Unfortunately, Governor Evers' ARPA funding for 7 of these positions is about to run out. We've asked for general-purpose revenue to replace the ARPA funds.

Without that vital funding, we'll have to return 11 regional and 2 clinical coordinators. Scaling back will result in increased wait time for Veterans to receive services, less timely intervention, delayed mental health assessments, and delays in getting Veterans off the streets, into housing, and into needed treatment. Fully funding the expanded program means more lives saved and more dignity restored. It is the right thing to do to honor the commitment we all made to those who served.

VORP is just one of the ways we help Veterans face and triumph over challenges. At WDVA, we know that no Veteran should have to go it alone. That's why your advocacy — the Legion's commitment to ensuring no Veteran is left behind — matters so much.

We encourage you to contact your elected state representatives to support programs like VORP, so Veterans know we have their backs. Find your legislator online by visiting [legis.wisconsin.gov](http://legis.wisconsin.gov).

I am grateful for the American Legion's vocal support in keeping Veteran support programs fully funded and supported in the Badger state. Thank you!

Yours in Service,

James Bond, Secretary  
Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

## MILWAUKEE STAND DOWN



The American Red Cross Wisconsin Region recently participated in the Milwaukee Stand Down, an event dedicated to supporting homeless and at-risk Veterans. Nellie P. De Baker PDVC/PDH donated a box of Thank You cards to the Red Cross for distribution to the Veterans. The Stand Down serves as a vital resource for Veterans offered access to services such as healthcare from various organizations present. Nellie P. De Baker, PDVC/PDH, (L) and Michelle Matuszak, American Red Cross.

## POST 236 HOLIDAY CELEBRATION



American Legion Post 236 in Algoma held their annual Christmas/New Year celebration January 17. (L-R) Post Adjutant/Finance Officer CJ Schmidt, Algoma Mayor Steve Lautenbach and Post Commander Mike Froelich.



## POST 534 FOOD DRIVE

McFarland and neighbors donated to local pantry held at McFarland American Legion Post 534.

## POST 122 VETERANS DAY DINNER



Post 122 Phillips held their annual Veterans Dinner. Food donations were given from each member to the local food bank. L-R: Doug, John, Mike and George.

## LEGIONNAIRES CRUISE TO MEXICO, BELIZE



A small group gathered February 9-16, for a Wisconsin American Legion Group Cruise to Mexico and Belize. Another group cruise is being planned for Alaska, Spring 2027, stay tuned. Front row, left to right, Jay Anderson, Post 486, Tanya Anderson, Ronald Schuelke, Post 69, Maureen Schuelke, Post 69. Back row, left to right, Louise Zink, John Zink, Post 36, Mike Hartwel, Post 36, Annette Masek.

## POST 60 DONATES TO VETS & FRIENDS



Commander Brian Smits, 1st Vice Commander Bruce Siebers and Chaplain Paul Kluge of Kimberly Post 60 presented a donation to Monica Betters and Mark Page of Vets & Friends, a 501(c)3 Local Military Veterans Organization. They are located at St. James United Methodist Church, Appleton. They serve brunch from 10am-Noon on Wednesday; and breakfast from 8am-10am on Friday.





## POST 10 DELIVERS OVER 250 CHRISTMAS MEALS

The Wausau American Legion Post 10 delivered over 250 Christmas meals to the homes of Veterans and their families on Wednesday, December 18. The meals were delivered by 26 volunteer drivers. Roger Mathison, National Vice Commander of the American Legion visited Post 10 to see how the meal program works. He rode in the post truck for meal deliveries with Past Commander Larry Jager, Historian Mike Heilmann and Scott Brainard, a great supporter of the post.

The post has provided over 6,500 "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.

Many volunteers including those from the Samuels Group helped package the meals with cookies for delivery. The delicious meals were prepared by Bunkers

Restaurant in Wausau and the cookies were baked and donated by the Hadleys.

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 non-members, who make it possible to provide this valuable Veterans service. The post also appreciates the support from our local businesses and community members.

*Story and photos courtesy of Mike Heilmann, Post 10 Public Relations/Historian.*



## POST 243 MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT AT PHS

The Plymouth Ladewig-Zinkgraf American Legion Post 243 presented the colors on February 4 at the Plymouth High School Boys Basketball game. The event was for Military Appreciation Night, allowing current military personnel and Veterans to attend for free.



**James Fialkowski**  
Department Veterans  
Service Officer

## VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

### POST SERVICE OFFICERS

The Post Service Officer (PSO) is an important piece in the foundation of The American Legion an important and a vital link in the American Legion's nationwide network of volunteer and professional Service Officers.

Post Service Officers have been singly honored by your Post by your appointment or election to perform fundamental unselfish work for our Veteran community. Important work not only for the benefit of the members of the Post, but for those War Veterans and their family members that may particularly need your service. Theirs is the choice responsibility of looking out for the welfare of all concerned. The duties of the Service Officer are important and exacting, and while your accomplishments will be deeply appreciated by those immediately concerned, in most cases the work itself will not be sufficiently noticeable to catch the headlines of newspapers. Even without such recognition, depending upon satisfactory performance of the Post Service Officer's duty, there will

come to them the heartfelt gratitude of each and every member of your Post and Veteran community.

A Post Service Officer's level of your knowledge and effectiveness can determine how well a Post is known and respected by Veterans and the local community. The Post Service Officers' Guide is just one tool to help you answer questions about our programs. The guide is available on the National American Legion website for download, or our Service Office can download it for you and send it to you digitally.

To assist you with additional knowledge concerning the Veterans Affairs, I give classes at each Midwinter. Our Service Office has this class available digitally to all who want a copy. To attain such copy, please contact us with the request.

Contact information for the Service Office: email address, [al.vbamiv@va.gov](mailto:al.vbamiv@va.gov); phone number, 414-902-7522

Let me congratulate all Post Service Officers for their opportunity to serve so constructively and so unselfishly. You are the cornerstone of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Thank you!

## DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT



**Julie Muhle**  
Department  
Adjutant

By this time, most posts and all DEC members should have received your allocation of the Cash Paradise Raffle tickets. The DEC voted to go with this cash raffle for a couple of reasons. First, we want to find a way to keep our money and not give a percentage to the fundraising company. Next, we want to beef up our programs. The amount of money we are giving to scholarship and other recipients has been set for many years. As we are painfully aware, costs are not coming down any time soon. We need to try to be able to stay with costs and adjust our awards as a result.

These raffle tickets and the other fundraising programs we will have will help us to get to that point. With the raffle tickets, don't burden your members unless they want to make a purchase for a chance for the cash. Get them into the community! In the 11th District, they are doing well taking them to local establishments and asking them to help sell. Don't forget to make copies of the Membership Impact Report that was included in each folder to tell the story.

We are a nonprofit organization. This means our funds come from donors, sponsors and fundraising events. WE are the Wisconsin American Legion. WE all need to participate to make this organization strong. WE can do it!



**Dennis Jaeger**  
Department  
Chaplain

## DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

### AS HUMAN AS WE ARE

**"Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years!"**

—James 5:17

The showdown between Elijah and the prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18 is one of the most triumphant scenes in the Old Testament. One man of God versus 450 false prophets

in a winner-take-all contest to determine whose God was the true God of Israel.

The rules were simple. Elijah built one altar and placed his sacrifice of a bull on it. The false prophets built another altar and placed their sacrifice of a bull on it. The god who sent fire to burn his sacrifice would be declared the true God.

The false prophets went first. They prayed for hours, begging their god to respond. They worked themselves into a frenzy. They cut themselves, hoping their blood would get Baal's attention. But nothing happened.

When Elijah's turn came, he instructed people to pour water on his altar until it and the ground around it were flooded. He wanted to make it impossible, in human terms, for his altar to ignite. And then he prayed. And God sent fire from Heaven that consumed Elijah's sacrifice and altar, as well as the ground around it.

The Lord left no doubt as to who the true God of Israel was. Yet Jezebel, the queen of Israel, stubbornly refused to acknowledge Him. When she heard what had happened, she sent word to Elijah that he would be killed the next day.

Like that would scare a prophet of the one true God.

First Kings 19:3-4 describes Elijah's memorable response this way: "Elijah was afraid and fled for his life. . . . He sat down under a solitary broom tree and prayed that he might die" (NLT).

Wait . . . what? Why? The simple answer can be found in the passage from James 5 above: "Elijah was as human as we are."

People tend to put spiritual leaders—teachers, preachers, evangelists, podcasters, influencers—on pedestals. *Oh, they're so spiritual. They never get down. They never struggle with depression or anxiety like I do. Every day is great for them.* Not true. Every spiritual leader you admire is just as human as you are and struggles with vulnerabilities and weak moments, just as you do.

The devil knows that the most vulnerable time for many Christians—leaders and laypeople alike—is right after a spiritual victory. Maybe you've experienced that. Maybe you took a bold step of faith to do something for God's glory, and it went well. But immediately afterward you face a spiritual attack. Maybe your marriage foundered. Or your kids turned from Christ instead of to Him. I have experienced moments of weakness when as a Department Chaplain, I have said things and acted unholily and irreverently.

Don't focus on your emotions. Focus on God. Remember, you're not as good or as bad as people think you are. You're God's servant. Just do your job. Give Him the glory and keep moving, whether you're a leader or a layperson.

Understanding that leaders are as human as you are helps you resist the urge to put them on pedestals. It helps you be more realistic about your expectations for them. It helps you empathize with their responsibilities.

Perhaps most importantly, though, it encourages you to pray for them. The best thing you can do for the spiritual leaders in your life is to ask God to give them the strength, compassion, wisdom, discernment, and patience they need to accomplish God's work.

Have a great Spring American Legion Family!



## CAMP AMERICAN LEGION

### 2025 SEASON OF CAMP AMERICAN LEGION



*“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*



**Jim Klement**  
Camp American Legion Director

It is only early March and Camp American Legion is almost completely booked for our 2025 Season. We have a full season planned for our campers.

Starting off in May we have camp opening that has our cabin sponsors come up to camp to open their cabins. There is a lot of work to get these cabins from their winter slumber to a fully operational cabin that gets utilized every week. We also have our favorite Belgium Boys come up and turn on the water and accomplish a lot of maintenance to ensure that we do not have any issues throughout the

season.

Throughout the season we have many different weeks. We work with a lot of different programs to help as many Veterans as possible. VP Programs will come up on certain weeks to allow them a Northwoods environment to enhance their programs. We also collaborate with the Wisconsin National Guard for Camp Serenity and their Joint Wellness Program. We also have a week for our women Veterans and a week for our Korean/Vietnam era Veterans.

For the last three years, we close out our summer season with our service dog week. We have K-9 patriots bring up Veterans and they work with both the Veteran and the service dog. This is the perfect time for the dogs as the heat

has passed and they are able to do multiple activities and training outside that enhances the bond between them both.

All of the programs and weeks that we have at camp are always a great time for both our staff and our Veterans. In order to continue this great service, we rely on numerous volunteers. If you would like to volunteer for camp, for either opening/closing or during the weeks of program, please give us a call at camp.

“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](http://wilegion.org) or find us on Facebook.*

### POST 487 HOSTS INAUGURAL ‘WIDOWS NIGHT OUT’



The American Legion Stokes-Liebman Post 487 of Cable hosted their first “Widows Night Out” the weekend of Valentine’s Day 2025. Post 487 members escorted a widow of a Post 487 Legion member that is no longer with us for a nice dinner at the Lakewoods Resort. The ladies were presented with a lovely corsage with dinner paid for by the Post. It was a wonderful evening and we hope to do this again next year.

*Photo by Julie Horn-Friermood.*

### OCONOMOWOC FOOD PANTRY DONATION



Oconomowoc Post 91 Commander (Marty McFarland behind the check), Adjutant (Dale Saeger), and 1st Vice Commander (Jerry Wendt) presented a donation for \$1,750 to the Oconomowoc Food Pantry.

### POST 224 DONATES TO ALMA FIRE DEPT.



The Alma American Legion Post 224 members agreed to lend support to local agencies or groups in the area through monetary contributions. “It is our purpose to give back to the community that so frequently support us.” Pictured in front of Alma’s new tanker truck is Commander Scott Smolen presenting a check for \$500 to Fire Chief Thomas Brakke. Also pictured are fire personnel Joey Wick (left) and Ben Schams (right). The donation is to assist in the purchase of a new on-site drop tank. Post 224 has also committed to 2025 assistance to The Alma Little League, Enhance Alma, Wings over Alma, and Veterans Services Organization.

### QUILTS OF VALOR



ABOVE: Quilts of Valor presented from left to right: Roger Novak, Larry Slowiak, and Vern Lowther of Rhineland American Legion Post 7. AT RIGHT: Black Earth American Legion Post 313, Quilt of Valor awarded to Daniel Joyce on 3-10-2025. Dan served in Vietnam. L-R Dan Joyce, Post Commander Gary Ballweg.





# SQUADRON 209 HOST FREEZIN' FOR A REASON

On the afternoon of December 17, a group of volunteers visited the Housing 4 Our Vets section of the Rock Valley Community Programs Center in Janesville. Past SAL Detachment Commander David Fuller had been in contact with Program Director Tiffany Ford about an activity that they were looking to start. The activity involved the sponsorship of Veterans for Christmas giving. The Christmas requests were quite simple, most for clothing that would be appropriate for the Christmas season.

After seeing the requests, David Fuller talked to Orfordville SAL Squadron 209 member Jim Rackow about having the Freezin' for a Reason funds to pay for the requests to ensure that the Veterans would enjoy the holidays. 48 gift cards were purchased for all 48 program participants. Individual cards were purchased so the Veterans could make their own choices, which would give them a sense of control.

A group was formed to go to the facility to present the gift cards as well as Christmas cards and printed cards that thanked the Veterans for their sacrifices and struggles. As part of the presentation, the Veterans were informed of the dedication that the Orfordville Post 209 Legion Family has for Veterans. The group was told about the benefits of being an American Legion family member.

After the presentation there was a loud round of applause and a humbling thank you from the Veterans and the staff. An open invitation to return to the facility was given to the Legion Family to return to address the group. Copies of the *Badger Legionnaire* and the *American Legion Magazine*



**SAL Squadron member Jim Rackow with Lance Baskin, Director of the Veterans area of Rock Valley Community Programs Center.**

were given to the group.

The efforts to help the Veterans at Rock Valley Community Programs Center in Janesville were supported by a fundraiser that David Fuller and Jim Rackow started 4 years ago and plan to revive. Because of the success of the fundraiser, they are still collecting donations. Freezin' for a Reason and Squadron 209 was able to make this event happen.



**SAL Squadron 209 at Rock Valley Community Programs Center with staff and Veterans receiving gift cards.**



Loki

## LOKI'S CORNER

### REMINDER OF UPCOMING FORMS DUE TO HQ

- **POST DATA REPORTS DUE April 9.** Ensure your RENEWAL NOTICES go out to your members with the correct dues amount and post information.
- **CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS DUE JUNE 1.** Every CPR submitted supports our mission.

Very important every Post submits.

- **POST OFFICER REPORT** – Due immediately after your Post/County/District elections. Must submit even if you have no changes. If you're editing the Post Officer Report that was mailed with the PDRs, please include "Date Installed" for each new Officer.

- **AMERICANISM AWARDS DUE JUNE 1–**

<https://wilegion.org/awards>

\*\*All Reports submitted will be posted weekly in the Adjutants weekly membership email. \*\*



**Julie Muhle  
Department  
Adjutant**

## DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP

Hello! April starts the final quarter of our membership year. There will be a lot going on! Here are some things to remember:

- Your Post Data Report (PDR) must be returned to headquarters BEFORE April 9. The first renewal notices for the new membership year start in May. If you don't have your PDR sent in, you risk your dues not being correct, if you are changing them, as well as other changes not being implemented. We definitely do not want a repeat of last year!

- All member changes such as addresses, phone numbers or emails, need to be completed by April 9 as well. National will be starting the process of printing membership cards for the next membership year and if the changes are not in by mid-April, the membership cards not be updated. If this does happen, you can still print a current membership card from myLegion.org.

This also starts the time of the year when posts want to hold on to memberships. Please do not do this. If something were to happen and the member needed assistance from one of our programs, they would not be eligible because they are not a member in good standing, meaning their dues are not paid. This would mean the post is liable for anything the potential member would be out.

Be honest and let the member know that they will need to pay membership now and again after July 1. This won't make it a shock when they get another renewal notice. Or, the post can pick up the membership for the new person.

Either way, membership goes until June 30. Continue Buddy Checks and renewing/paying dues until this date!

## DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN



**Michelle Adams  
Department  
Historian**

March 15, 2025 marked the 106th Birthday of The American Legion. Department Commander Johnson and the Legion family attended the annual ceremony at Orfordville Post 209. Post 209 is unique in that its namesakes Wells, Davis, Young, and Neal represent those who paid the ultimate price defending our nation in WWI, WWII, Vietnam, and Afghanistan, respectively. These Veterans represent the best of us as Americans, and whose stories of valor remind us to strive for excellence. In the past 106 years of this organization, our rich tradition has remained firmly intact. We celebrate this birthday by recognizing members, community supporters, and those Veterans new to a life of service. Throughout history, each generation faces challenges. Since 1919, the Legion has been a beacon of hope and has shown determination in improving our way of life. Our greatest challenge facing us today is the epidemic of suicide. The Legion's commitment to the Be The One initiative leads the way in solving this widespread problem. Oftentimes, the smallest gesture of a kind word or a Buddy Check can completely turn things around for someone struggling. Our 106 years of camaraderie has

surely saved countless lives. It is with our shared goals, of the Legion family, that we "consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness." From Shell Shock in WWI, to today's suicide, The American Legion has met the challenge at hand. In 1921, the Legion convinced the federal government to create the Veterans Bureau. This gave Veterans healthcare, disability benefits, and vocational training. This later evolved into the Veterans Administration and then into our current Department of Veterans Affairs. In 1944, The American Legion drafted the Servicemen's Readjustment Act or the "GI Bill". When the initial GI Bill period ended in 1956, 7.8 million out of 15.4 million Veterans enrolled in an education or training program. In 1955, the Veterans Administration backed one-third of housing starts. It is estimated that the GI Bill returned \$7 to the economy for every \$1 spent in costs. We continue to address our representatives in government, to care for Veterans and their families. Since the Legion's inception, Veterans and their families have received benefits, as well as participated in programs that enrich lives. Health, wellness, and quality of life are found in the Legion. As the premiere Veteran organization, we celebrate our 106th birthday and proudly represent the American ideal.



**Paul Fisk  
Legislative  
Chairman**

## LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

The Department Spring meetings are will soon be here. The Department Legislative Committee will be reviewing nominations and making a recommendation to the Department Executive Committee for the selection of 2025 Legislator of the Year.

The Posts are responsible for the initial nominations. The post nominations are then forwarded to their respective District Commander, who, working with the

district legislative committee, selects the district nominee and forwards this nomination to the Department. Nominations must be received by Department Headquarters before May 1, no exceptions. The Department Legislative Committee will review the nomination packets and make a recommendation to the Department Executive Committee during the Spring meetings. All district nominees ought to be formally recognized by the respective district.

The selection criteria and nomination forms are found in the Administrative Manual. Any serving member of Congress or the State Legislature is eligible for nomination. This award is to recognize sustained performance by any legislator. The nominee selected must advance the legislative goals of American Legion Department of Wisconsin to include the four pillars.

During the last few years, the Legislative committee has received three or four nominations at most. This year, our goal is to receive a nomination from each district. In order to accomplish this, you, the membership, must participate in the process.



# The Last Bugle



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

<b>6 Stevens Point</b> James B. Mozuch V Ronald Fluguar V Dennis Raffik V Lloyd M. Lundgren K <b>7 Rhinelander</b> Carl Kuczumarski K Gerald Roou V Randall Robl V Melvin Davidson V John Nehls K <b>8 Waukesha</b> James E. McDonald K Robert D. Staffaroni V <b>9 Wisconsin Rapids</b> Leroy H. Donahue V <b>10 Wausau</b> John R. Pijan V Thomas W. Nienow K Harry A. Blair K Kenneth Marth V Garry Puariea K Dale H. Becker V <b>11 Green Bay</b> Richard A. Ryan K <b>12 Spooner</b> Ralph R. Riedell V <b>13 Richland Center</b> Elbert H. Block WWII Larry Winger V <b>17 Arcadia</b> Thomas A. Pyka V <b>18 Milwaukee</b> Walter Henry K <b>19 Hartford</b> Sylvester Kreuser K <b>24 Lake Geneva</b> Robert L. Howard K <b>26 Baraboo</b> Russell P. Hasenbalg K James A. Sanner V Angus R. Semple V <b>27 South Milwaukee</b> Chester W. Grobschmidt WWII Lloyd H. Bruening K Rudy Riendeau WWII Joseph J. Kotarak K Shawn Arndt GWOT Robert Simatic V <b>29 Kewaunee</b> Francis J. Fictum K	<b>30 Edgerton</b> Delbert D. Montgomery K <b>31 Milwaukee</b> Peter R. Moncher V <b>33 Neenah</b> Russell A. Schultz V David N. Downs V Walt J. Ziemke K Marvin L. Gorski V Richard E. Jelinski K Lawrence Schroeder V <b>36 West Bend</b> Robert M. Schluga K Steve Niebauer V <b>37 Elk Mound</b> Victor Jenson K <b>38 Appleton</b> James E. Bender V Lawrence A. West V Harold A. Petta V Donald A. Hildeman K <b>39 Marinette</b> Roy L. Peterson WWII <b>47 Portage</b> Wayne L. Vincent Sr. V R.E. Chilson V Robert D. Miller WWII Marion L. Chenoweth K Howard Schneider V Michael J. Kinney V David R. Davies V Neil Krueger V Michael E. Lord V <b>48 Beloit</b> James E. Roeling II G/L <b>52 La Crosse</b> Francis W. Merfeld V Theodore N. Knudson K Raymond H. Flower K Arthur M. Ford WWII Richard L. Peterson V <b>53 Eau Claire</b> James J. Brenner K <b>54 Marshfield</b> Kenneth R. Larson K <b>59 Stoughton</b> Richard Boyd V <b>60 Kimberly</b> Donald L. McGowan K <b>61 Prescott</b> Butch Matzek V
---	---

<b>63 Clintonville</b> Clyde C. Culbertson V Harvey J. Beery K Gerald E. Connolly V <b>68 Prairie du Chien</b> James W. Hannah V <b>69 Mayville</b> Robert L. Cottrill V Thomas S. Zuelsdorf V Thomas F. Streblov V Gregory A. Debattista V <b>70 Oshkosh</b> Jack A. Weissling K <b>75 Fond du Lac</b> Douglas L. Hoffmann K <b>77 Chippewa Falls</b> Milan J. Ramlet K <b>80 New Richmond</b> Charles P. Mehls V Loren I. Barnes V Allen J. Neumann K <b>81 Mauston</b> Arthur N. Buye V Harold Johnson V <b>82 Port Washington</b> Gordon Dionne V Paul M. Ehrlich K <b>84 Monroe</b> Richard G. Wescott K <b>85 Muscoda</b> David O. Martin K David F. Speigle V <b>87 Rice Lake</b> James D. Foust V <b>88 Manitowoc</b> Lee D. Thompson G/L William J. Frieder V William D. Christoffel K <b>89 Minocqua</b> Arnold N. Graveen V David Brostowitz V <b>91 Oconomowoc</b> Robert Bergman V Gerald Thronson K <b>93 Tomahawk</b> Daniel R. Reiter GWOT <b>95 Delavan</b> Darrell A. Line K Larry Thomas V John D. Loomer PG Ken Kramer V <b>98 Cumberland</b> David J. Husby V <b>100 Sparta</b> Vernon C. Kerling K Lowell Steyer K <b>106 Seymour</b> Felix Martinez K Terry Rihm V <b>109 Lancaster</b> Robert L. Miller V <b>110 New Lisbon</b> Ross A. Farbo V Thomas D. Hoile V <b>113 Mount Horeb</b> Leo C. Peterson V Vaughn H. Ableman V <b>117 Shawano</b> Ervin Bartz Jr. K William F. Wegner K Donald Braatz K <b>121 River Falls</b> Newman O. Benson K <b>125 Chilton</b> James E. Hertel K <b>131 Colfax</b> Vernon D. Kressin V
--

<b>137 Turtle Lake</b> Gary Solum V <b>146 Beaver Dam</b> Kenneth J. Serchen V <b>149 Sheboygan Falls</b> Frank J. Lohr K Melvin Cardarelle K Kenneth F. Maurer K <b>152 Menasha</b> Raymond A. Racette K Kenney L. Stafford K Timothy T. Flaherty V Marvin D. Pagel K <b>153 Pittsville</b> Allen J. Schmidt WWII <b>154 Mondovi</b> Levi E. Haigh K Earl M. Christopherson K <b>157 Horicon</b> Duane Ewert V David E. Lentz V Robert Lydick V Thomas W. Fleege V Ray Seaholm V Lane A. Seaholm P Earl Winker K <b>158 Maiden Rock</b> Dale A. Hoffman G/L <b>160 Brooklyn</b> Ronald J. Janssen K <b>162 Alma Center</b> Dean R. Stephens V <b>164 Jefferson</b> Jack F. Bayreuther K <b>166 Fort Atkinson</b> Lee D. Thompson V Roger R. Gehrke V <b>168 Glenwood City</b> Edward K. Waters V <b>170 Mineral Point</b> Gilbert Graber WWII Robert F. Potter K <b>171 Union Grove</b> Reuben T. Newholm WWII Philip J. Yakish V <b>175 Loyal</b> Ronald R. Jakobi V <b>179 Chetek</b> Michael J. Davis V <b>182 Park Falls</b> Donald L. Preisler K <b>185 Grantsburg</b> Merlin C. Becvar K Merlin L. Lines K Milton R. Jensen Jr. V Eugene H. Gronlund WWII Liddell Nordrum K <b>187 Wisconsin Dells</b> Robert McClyman V <b>189 Watertown</b> Gene N. Asmann GWOT Armond P. Schmidt V Joseph R. Massillo V <b>197 Brodhead</b> Duane V. Schneider K Robert A. Young V <b>201 Tomah</b> Vincent E. Rowan K <b>205 Janesville</b> Terry Hatch K William J. Bevins K Raymond Yessa V Richard W. Fladmark K <b>206 Wonewoc</b> Joseph F. Lally V John F. Bohn V Kenneth R. Field Jr. V	<b>209 Orfordville</b> Theodore A. Knapp Jr. V Roland E. Mathewson K Becky S. Hammes PG Raymond A. Quale V Carl J. Stuka K <b>211 Florence</b> Barry W. Perron V <b>212 Barron</b> Alan Martinson V <b>214 Darlington</b> Patrick E. Fuller V Les Torstenson V <b>215 Pardeeville</b> Gerald L. Lueck V <b>216 Lodi</b> Larry J. Johnson V <b>234 Omro</b> Thomas R. Wagner V Ervin Clemon Fay WWII <b>245 Cross Plains</b> James A. Honer K Helen J. Gurkow PG <b>254 Milltown</b> William M. Pullin WWII <b>258 Little Chute</b> Charles A. Hietpas V Kenneth Ziegler WWII Peter V. Schmalz WWII Robert W. Siebers K Alvin Kramer K Roger J. Gerrits K Gerald B. Nytes K <b>262 Luxemburg</b> Robert W. Vieau V <b>267 New Auburn</b> Lloyd E. Woodmansee K <b>272 Butternut</b> Daniel Bucheger V <b>278 Balsam Lake</b> Steven P. Williams G/L <b>279 Marshall</b> Dennis Bernard V <b>284 Holmen</b> William Sacia K <b>286 Oostburg</b> Ronald Lee Oonk V <b>288 Cedarburg</b> Ray McCarville K Dennis Wolff V <b>293 Silver Lake</b> Jeffrey A. Redlin V Ronald D. Vollmer V William G. Haase V <b>298 Spencer</b> Dennis R. Foth V <b>302 Oconto Falls</b> Randy Bohardt V <b>304 Palmyra</b> James H. Goodrich V <b>306 Green Lake</b> Terry W. Blazer V Bill Yentz K Dennis Beuthin V <b>309 Kendall</b> Lyle L. Smith K <b>310 Racine</b> Robert P. Pirk Sr. V <b>316 Sheldon</b> Robert Brinkmeyer K <b>322 Babcock</b> Donald Somerville K Delwin K. King V Daniel P. Cheatle V Robert F. Winters V <b>324 Osseo</b> James Wilton PG
---	---

<b>332 Black Creek</b> Mike Wagner V <b>336 Onalaska</b> Albert C. Spande V <b>337 Pulaski</b> Delroy Mayer V Joe Zwiacz V <b>340 Berlin</b> Richard J. Trochinski V <b>343 Hancock</b> Victor R. Ruiz K <b>350 Reedsburg</b> Raymond V. Deakin K <b>353 Cornell</b> Harry Graham V <b>355 Grafton</b> Peter T. Olsen V Lawrence C. Engel K Adolph C. Schroeder K <b>356 Muskego</b> Arnold M. Rose V <b>359 Gilman</b> Kenneth P. Mahalko V <b>360 Waunakee</b> John Oakeson K John F. Fisher PG <b>361 Wilmot</b> Emory C. Trussell V Jack Velino WWII <b>362 Kennan</b> Ronald M. Severson V <b>363 Denmark</b> Eugene J. Psenicka K <b>364 Winneconne</b> Leon Quigley K <b>368 Taylor-Hixton</b> Lee R. Bergerson V Steven J. Koxlein G/L <b>370 Wild Rose</b> Darrel Wilson V <b>375 Mukwonago</b> William F. Luebke V Walter A. Lohman PG <b>379 Birchwood</b> Allen P. Stanton V <b>382 Menomonee Falls</b> Lawrence O'Connell K <b>384 Kewaskum</b> Kenneth Koth K <b>393 Edgar</b> Edwin Wichlacz K <b>395 Kingston</b> Arvin G. Koopman V <b>396 Indian Creek</b> Robert G. Nelson K <b>412 Belgium</b> Gene W. Ellner V <b>413 Crivitz</b> Vernon L. Thomas K Bernard Glander K Loren Marcusen V Thomas E. Morrell V Paul J. Holmgren K Joseph K. Margis V Gary J. Vandervelden V Dennis J. Darrow V <b>415 Milwaukee</b> Ronald R. Bruner V <b>416 Greendale</b> Gordon Voss K <b>417 French Isle (La Crosse)</b> Denis P. Richmond V Thomas P. Viner V James Schultz V Wayne J. Hood Jr. V Herbert Hucke V <b>431 Three Lakes</b> Raymond A. Alsteen WWII	<b>433 Barneveld</b> Mark C. Duffey PG <b>434 Oak Creek</b> Thomas C. Odell V <b>436 Wrightstown</b> Clarence H. Lafave K <b>437 Mazomanie</b> Allan K. Koch V Donald L. Lawler K <b>438 Norwalk</b> Jeffrey T. Clark P <b>440 Clinton</b> Gregory S. Repaal V <b>447 Viola</b> Joseph Cano K <b>449 Brookfield</b> Stanley M. Jolton K Anthony M. Kader K Gerald G. Govin V <b>450 Darien</b> Gerald F. Packard V <b>454 Mt. Calvary</b> Allen W. Sabel V William L. Brill V <b>455 Milwaukee</b> James Dowell V <b>469 Marathon</b> Roger F. Grell V Jack D. Krautkramer K Donald W. Hieronimus V <b>477 St. Nazianz</b> Donald Sebo V <b>483 Allenton</b> Robert B. Carlson V <b>484 Glenbeulah</b> Steven J. Rortvedt V William Wall Jr. K Thomas Zimmermann V <b>488 New Berlin</b> James J. Bowers K <b>494 Caledonia</b> Daniel M. Lemke V Robert D. McGee K Ronald K. Crossman Sr. V <b>496 Sherwood</b> Jack J. Cronce K <b>499 Gordon</b> John H. Hoelter V Dave L. Phillips V <b>501 Madison</b> Aaron C. Robbins PG Lawrence C. Gontarek K William J. Thomas K Gerald J. Sobczak V Marvin L. Miller V Noel A. Johnson V David J. Spengler K <b>506 Iron River</b> Seegar W. Swanson Jr. K John Vanhollen V <b>507 Mindoro</b> Joseph A. Paisley V <b>508 Wilton</b> David E. Forbush V Harlow B. Osteboe V <b>517 Dorchester</b> James Hebda V <b>518 Green Bay</b> Loren H. Dunn K Gerald G. Matthews V Allan E. Lemke K <b>521 Fox Lake</b> John W. Mund V Ronald J. Paul V <b>537 Milwaukee</b> Walter C. Pufahl K <b>550 Brackett</b> Jerry W. Nelson V <b>555 Sheboygan</b> James W. Otto V <b>2930 Portage</b> Arthur J. Manske K Jacob B. Mukansky WWII Daniel Gomulak V Allen A. Pauer WWII Jerome J. Fink WWII Richard Hanson V Donald J. Madden WWII George Ronkoske K Duane Miller V Eugene Peterson WWII Scotty Zeman V Barry Vetter V James A. Anderson V Donald L. Rose K Peter Stotzheim WWII Jeff Chesmore PG Dennis Buhr V Jerome Zygowicz V Donald P. Mohr K Charles W. Nason V
--	---





# WISCONSIN



April 2025

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

alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

The official publication of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

www.amlegionauxwi.org

## MEMBERSHIP

### Department Membership Team

**Amy Luft**  
Chair

amyjluff@gmail.com  
414-651-7300

**Teresa Steinke**

Committee Member  
teresa.steinke\_cmx@yahoo.com  
715-828-7462

**Diane Zwiers**

Committee Member  
dzwiers7280@gmail.com  
920-378-1786

**Andrea Stoltz**

Program Coordinator  
alawi@amlegionauxwi.org  
608-745-0124

### 2025 Membership Totals – 87.59%



District	Goal %
4	96.17%
6	91.83%
3	90.28%
2	87.72%
11	87.59%
9	86.63%
12	86.41%
5	86.01%
10	85.87%
1	84.70%
8	84.57%
7	83.94%

(as of 3/18/2025)

When one door closes, another opens – sometimes goodbye makes space for the next hello. That's exactly what happened with two of our units.

Frank E. Malone Unit 113 (Mount Horeb, District 3) and Weiske-Farrell Unit 351 (Montello, District 6) both disbanded several years ago. However, it was quickly realized that their American Legion was missing an important link without an Auxiliary. It took only a few individuals to roll up their sleeves and get the message out about supporting their Legionnaires. Now, with newly approved charters from National Headquarters, both these units are up and running. What a great example of working together and keeping our American Legion Family strong. Congratulations!

**Wisconsin is one of 34 Departments that met the national goal of 85% by March 15.**

Plus, we're holding onto 4th place within Central Division. Congratulations to 4th District for dominating 1st place at the Department level! Remember, all members play an important part of the member-

ship program. Who have you asked within the last 30 days to join the ALA? Signing up new members is a must for our organization. It's a wise idea for everyone (Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons, Riders) to recruit for one another. There is strength in numbers and this can be an opportunity to involve others in all that we do. Growing the American Legion Family is, and will continue to be, a priority in the years ahead. Make sure to always carry membership applications with you and don't be afraid to ask... "Have you considered joining the American Legion Family?"

### Have questions? Need ideas?

The Wisconsin ALA Membership Group on Facebook provides members a place to learn about the membership program, have questions answered, and share ideas. Members can post their questions to the group and one of our very knowledgeable committee members usually answers rather quickly. Ask to join and then make sure to "like" us, even if we're your one and only friend!



## 75 YEARS OF SERVING FROM THE HEART



Kasierski-Kozlowski ALA Unit 366 in Princeton recognized members for their continuous years of membership. Unit President Barb Hess presented membership pins in honor of their dedication to the ALA. The four awardees represented 75 years of Serving from the Heart! **LEFT: Debra Mueller (5 years). CENTER LEFT: Debra Bassett (15 years). CENTER RIGHT: Keri Simacek (25 years). RIGHT: Sue Veleke (30 years).**

## LEGISLATIVE

**Maggie Geiger**  
Department Chair  
maggieg4ala@gmail.com  
262-377-0329

Teddy Roosevelt is credited for the phrase, "Speak softly and carry a big stick!"

I witnessed those words come into action at the Washington, D.C. Conference in February. The American Legion, along with Auxiliary and SAL members from across the Nation, visited our elected officials. Words of gratitude for past support were said by the Legion to our elected officials, which quickly segued into explaining the 2025 Legion legislative priorities and why their continued support is imperative.

With over 600,000 ALA members nationwide, our volunteer hours are a part of the second portion of the phrase "carry a big stick!" That's right, every hour, dollar, and in-kind-donation you report is vitally important when the National Commander goes in front of Congress and reminds them of promises made to our Veterans and how cuts in funding deeply affect our Veterans, service members, their families and more. Unfortunately, we all know dollars and votes make the world of lawmakers go round and round. The more you let your elected officials know that you support the legislative priorities, proves to them that we mean business!

Congratulations TAL family – Wisconsin was awarded the National Legislative Council Award for the most active state on Voter Voice! Every time you send a letter to our elected officials it is

counted – it's part of the "big stick" phrase! If you haven't yet signed up for Grassroots, please do by going to [www.Legion.org](http://www.Legion.org) and clicking on the Grassroots Action Center to sign up – it's as easy as 123. You will receive notifications and can send your lawmakers a letter every 24 hours.

Very often, we as members don't get to see or experience the ALA's mission in action, but I had that opportunity while in D.C. While visiting the offices of our Congressman and Senators, we were greeted by their aides. While waiting for our appointments, we started conversations with the aides and questions were asked such as, where in Wisconsin are you from, how long have you been in D.C., etc. I was surprised to find out that most of them are former Badger Boys and ALA Badger Girls Staters! They thanked us for the

amazing opportunity they had in participating in our programs, told us it was a pivotal experience in their lives, and hoped we continue to support this program. I also had the honor to have dinner with one of our 2024 ALABGS delegates, Meredith Clark of Green Lake, who was one of the 10 \$10,000 Samsung scholarship winners. This was our ALA mission in action.

Your membership is important. You've spent time raising funds and holding events for ALA programs, Veterans, service members and your communities, donated monies, and don't forget the yards of basket raffle tickets you've purchased! All of these "actions" have made a difference in the lives of so many. Keep up the wonderful work and continue to be a voice through your support of the Legion's legislative priorities.



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

**Donna Jensen**  
 Department Chaplain  
 djensen20@gmail.com  
 414-303-6186

*“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

~ Romans 12:2

**Renewal.** There are many meanings for this word including, make or become new, fresh or strong again; to begin again, resume; to grant or obtain an extension of.

The Spring season is a renewal time for Mother Nature and all things that grow. Many animals are born in spring and it is a time for planting and growth of all plant life. It is a way God shows us he is keeping his promise to us after a long winter season of rest and being dormant.

Think of Spring as a chance to start fresh and a new “blank slate” to fill with plans for the things you want to accomplish in the near future. What are your plans for the future? Do you have something you want to accomplish or a hope for renewal of a project, mission or goal? Do you want to do some “Spring Cleaning” of your life or a project you want to launch?

This is also a good time to thank God for helping us get through tough times and allowing us to grow.

**Music:**

“Here Comes the Sun”  
 by George Harrison of the Beatles

*Here comes the sun, here comes the sun.  
 And I say it's alright.  
 Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter.  
 Little darling, it feels like years since it's been here.  
 Here comes the sun, here comes the sun.  
 And I say it's alright.*

**Please Help!**

I am making a prayer book for Auxiliary President Becky Mueller and am asking everyone to submit a prayer, poem or inspirational piece to include in this book. They can be original or from another source. Include the name of the author, and the name, Unit number and District number of the person submitting it. Submissions can be sent to me by email (djensen20@gmail.com) or by mail: Donna Jensen, 6936 N 86th St., Milwaukee, WI 53224.

## GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

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

Wisconsin is proud to distribute memorial poppies made by Veterans. However, we are limited to providing poppies based on how many our Veteran poppy makers are able to produce. Unfortunately, due to an unprecedented volume of poppy orders received this year, the Poppy Shop is unable to process all poppy orders prior to National Poppy Day. Units and Posts have been notified if we anticipate not being able to fill their orders by May. Do you know any Veterans interested in making poppies? If so, please contact me!

This also serves as a reminder that poppies can be distributed throughout the year and

Veterans Day may be a great opportunity for a distribution plan later this year. Sharing the crepe paper poppy and its story are great ways to remind the community how much our Veterans sacrificed on our behalf and how the ALA continues to support our Veterans and military.

Poppy profits are essential for funding the VA hospitals in Wisconsin, Minneapolis, and Iron Mountain, Wisconsin's Veterans Homes, Dayton Care Center, and Camp American Legion. They also fund scholarships, grants to homeless women Veterans, emergency grants for Veterans and active-duty military personnel, and the Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Thank you to everyone who supports the Auxiliary's Poppy Program!

The 2025 ALA Department Convention is scheduled for July 17-20, 2025 at the Hyatt Regency/KI Center in Green Bay. The opening procession will start at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, July

18. Past Department President Joan Chwala will be our special guest with a tribute in her honor presented during convention. Department's governing documents will be reviewed and updated, officers will be elected and installed, and units will be recognized for all their hard work with membership this year. Spoiler alert: Convention is going to be FUN! Please visit the website for more convention details and plan to attend in July.

The 2025 National Convention will be held in Tampa, Florida with ALA convention sessions from August 25-27, 2025. Watch the department website as more information becomes available. Anyone interested in attending should ask to be nominated as an Alternate by their District President. Members who prefer to attend as a guest only, should notify Bonnie Dorniak (deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org) to request a convention packet when available.

# 2025 ALA DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

**American Legion Auxiliary,  
 Department of Wisconsin  
 Thursday-Sunday, July 17-20, 2025**

**Official Call:** The 2025 American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention will be called into session at the Hyatt Regency/KI Center, 333 Main Street in Green Bay at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, July 18, 2025.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the department convention is to elect officers for the 2025-2026 administrative year; elect delegates and alternates to the national convention; amend the department's governing documents as needed; receive reports of the department officers and chairmen; recognize outstanding unit achievements; and transact business as may be brought before the convention body.

**Representation:** Representation in the department convention shall be by unit in accordance with the provisions of the department constitution. Units with less than ten paid members or whose district dues have not been paid shall have no representation. Delegates to department convention shall be unit members duly elected for that purpose.

**Registration:** All attendees to the 2025 Department Convention must submit a registration form and \$30 per person to The American Legion by July 7, 2025. Registrations after July 7 will be \$35.

**Voting:** All delegates must be registered by 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 19 and seated within their District for voting at 9:00 a.m. Business will resume as soon as voting is completed.

**Housing Blocks:** Housing has been arranged at the following hotels with discounted room rates until the deadlines or the room blocks are filled, whichever comes first. Reservations must be made directly with the hotels.

**Hyatt Regency**  
 333 Main Street, Green Bay  
 \$129-\$169 per night

**Hotel Northland**  
 304 N. Adams St., Green Bay  
 Cut-off is Thursday, June 26, 2025  
 \$165 per night

**Quality Inn & Suites Downtown**  
 321 S. Washington Street, Green Bay  
 920-785-6864  
 Group Name: American Legion 2025  
 Cut-off is Thursday, July 10, 2025  
 \$99 per night - Free Hot Breakfast  
 0.8 miles from the convention center

**Deceased Members:** Names of deceased members that are sent to Department Headquarters by April 25, 2025 on a Member Data Form will appear in the Joint Memorial Service Program.

**Installation:** Installation of 2025-2026 Department Officers and District Presidents will be on Saturday, July 19 upon conclusion of convention business.

## VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

**Bonnie Jakubczyk**  
 Department Chair  
 Bon6862@yahoo.com  
 414-764-6752

Spring is here and let us start off by recognizing our volunteers during April's National Volunteer Month. It is fantastic to see how our hospital volunteers are making a difference for our Veterans. Not only are they helping our Veterans, they are making a positive impression for the American Legion Auxiliary.

A huge thank you to all those crafty people that use their time and money to make tray favors, lap blankets, baby items, or cards. These

items brighten up the Veterans' day. Hopefully, members have kept track of this for the Service to Veterans hours. Speaking of which, make sure to share what your unit has done this year by filling out the Unit Impact Report, which is due to your District President by April 15, and the VA&R Unit Annual Narrative Report, which is due to Department Headquarters by April 15, 2025. Remember to include pictures (JPEG format), stories, newspaper clippings, flyers, activity reports, and success stories. By sending in your reports, we can share your activities with National, thus highlighting how Wisconsin units are working our mission.

Are you looking to donate to the VA facili-

ties? You can check out their needs lists on the Department website or contact the Hospital Representative for what the current needs are.

Memorial Day is a day filled with emotion as we remember family, friends, and neighbors who are no longer with us. It is also a day of thankfulness for the freedoms we enjoy because of the sacrifices our service men and women made that we can never repay.

Memorial Day traditions include flags placed on Veterans' graves and ALA poppy distributions. On Memorial Day, Veterans organizations join in with parades and ceremonies.

**WE REMEMBER...**

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





## CONVENTION FUNDRAISER

**Laura Calteux**  
Fundraising Chair  
lauracalteux@yahoo.com  
414-379-2973

*Serving Our Veterans, Military and Each other from the Depths of Our Hearts*

At department convention, we will have raffle baskets to raise funds for President Becky's special project, the national Auxiliary Emergency Fund. We are asking units, districts and members to donate a raffle basket, including a list of the contents, enclosed in cellophane. We will have different baskets each day, so drop me an email to let me know which day you will be bringing your basket to convention, [lauracalteux@yahoo.com](mailto:lauracalteux@yahoo.com). Please contact me if you have any questions.

## POPPY PROGRAM

**Deanna Farley**  
Department Chairman  
farleyofsc@gmail.com

Spring is upon us here in Wisconsin! In a few short weeks, the spring flowers will be starting to bloom, including any of those poppies you may have planted. I will be checking my flower beds for signs of new growth as I do every year. I would love to see your pictures of a beautiful poppy flower bed!

In May, the ALA will be amid one of its busiest months. Many units across Wisconsin will be distributing poppies as we prepare for National Poppy Day on May 23. The poppy is prominent at many Memorial Day services as well and many times is an actual part of the service. If your unit uses poppies as part of their Memorial Day service, I would love to hear about what you do and pictures are always great!

**All poppy funds are used to support Veterans, active military and their families.** As you distribute your poppies, it may help to have that signage displayed if possible, to support that information. People are likely to be more generous if they know exactly what is being done with any funds received from your poppy distribution. Display sizes can be dictated by how much space you have available. Good luck to everyone!

Does your unit do a Poppy Day Proclamation? A sample Poppy Proclamation is available on the Department website ([www.amlegion-auxwi.org](http://www.amlegion-auxwi.org)) under "Programs"/Poppy tab.

Thank you to all who participated in the annual Poppy Poster Contest! We received entries from fourteen units. I am sure the judging will be difficult as all our young students are very talented. The winners will be sent on to be judged with their peers in other states in the Central Division. Good luck to all!

I am very excited to announce we have a candidate for Poppy Princess! Loyal Unit 175 member, Kindyn Fitzl, is in the running to be our next Poppy Princess!! Welcome aboard, Kindyn, and best wishes to you and your ALA Family!

Thank you to everyone for participating in the Poppy Program for the Department of Wisconsin!

## HONORING PDP JOAN CHWALA (2011-2012)

Past Department President Joan Chwala will be the honored guest at the 2025 Department Convention at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Joan is a 44-year PUFL member of Unit 326 in Boyd, Chippewa County, District 10. She served as Department President from 2011-2012.

Joan's eligibility for membership is through the service of her father, Robert N. Morris, an Army medic who served in the Pacific Theater during WWII; her husband, Earl T. Chwala, who also served in the Army during Vietnam; and her brother, Lorum "Lem" Morris, an Army Veteran of the Vietnam Era.



PDP Joan Chwala

Joan was an educator for 35 years, teaching children in grades K-8 in the Gilman School District. Following her retirement, she focused her energies on serving our Veterans and their families through her volunteer activities. ALA Badger Girls State was blessed to have her serve as a county counselor for nine years and as the leader of the Americanism and Community Service interest groups. She shared her leadership skills by serving on various department and national ALA committees and in chairmanships. Joan was awarded the prestigious Toomey Award for her Department History in 2008. While serving as

Department Membership Chairman in 2006-2007, she brought her "three ringed circus" to multiple membership round-ups around the state to encourage renewals and recruitment.

Joan's theme, 'Libraries of Love,' stemmed from her love of reading and desire to ensure that Veterans across the state would have access to reading materials that enriched their lives. The gifts she presented on behalf of the Department to each of the Veterans care facilities were quality reading materials including both books and periodicals. Continuing her dedication to Veterans, Joan served as a hospital deputy at the Chippewa Falls Veterans home for 7 years. The Veterans living there recalled fondly their shopping trips with her.

Joan will be honored during the convention session on Friday, July 18. Please plan to join in celebrating her years of service and share your memories of her year as Department President.



## ALABGS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: MEREDITH CLARK

Meredith Clark, a 2024 ALA Badger Girls State delegate from Green Lake High School, has distinguished herself as a leader and scholar. She was honored as a national recipient of the prestigious Samsung American Legion Scholarship, awarded in memory of her late great-grandfather, Leonard P. Reetz, a Korean War Veteran. Meredith is pictured with Senator Ron Johnson and her father Justin Clark during The American Legion's annual Washington, D.C. Conference where she was recognized with the other national Samsung Scholarship winners for their accomplishments.

Following her graduation, Meredith plans to attend Ripon College, where

she will pursue dual majors in biology and business. With aspirations to earn a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree from Colorado State University, Meredith aims to establish her own veterinary practice in the future.

Her transformative experience at ALA Badger Girls State fostered her personal growth, deepened her understanding of democratic principles, and strengthened her leadership skills. It also provided her with the opportunity to build lasting friendships and develop resilience, ambition, and confidence. Meredith credits these experiences with inspiring her to strive toward becoming the best version of herself.

## CHILDREN &amp; YOUTH (C&amp;Y)

**Joyce Endres**  
Department Chair  
jendres@charter.net  
608-772-1763

"The youth is the hope of our future." Jose Rizal

Play cards with C&Y to: Encourage decision making; improve memory, problem solving, fine motor skills; and foster social skills through taking turns and communication. Teach friendly competition to help kids handle winning and losing gracefully.

Play ALA Activities Card Game with members: Cards include ALA program resources and support activities. Work in teams to increase knowledge, encourage action on ALA programs, and enhance member participation.

**Reported current C&Y activities:** Many volunteer hours and donations help units succeed!

District 2: In April, Ozaukee County Council plans to assemble "Clutches for MoMs" for USO Baby Shower.

District 3:

- Unit 348, DeForest: Distributed lunches to children at designated DeForest Parks; Junior member, Sophie Cimaroli, organized a lemonade stand to donate profits to Veterans' programs; American Legion Family hosted the Legion State Girls Softball tournament; Donated All4Hope,



Inc. to purchase 25 Brownie Kits for military C&Y attending Camp American Legion.

- Unit 437, Mazomanie: Worked with the local library to set up a kids snack corner and plan to donate a refrigerator and healthy snacks; Donated a Brownie book to the library; Junior members made Valentines for Veterans.

- Dane County Council PurpleUp for Military Children (pictured): Units from Cross Plains, Dane, DeForest, Madison, Mazomanie, McFarland, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, Verona, and Waunakee (host) donated \$1,400 towards Wisconsin Youth Camp. With the Army National Guard's generosity and Culver's donation of 500 Kids Meals, 28 vol-

unteers made up 500 bags for military children.

District 10: In April, Unit 121 in River Falls is holding an awards banquet to honor C&Y Good Deed and Youth Hero Award Recipients.

District 11: Unit 431 in Three Lakes and the Legion Family organized a Christmas party for the children of Veterans. They provided lunch to attendees, Santa and his elf handed out age-appropriate gifts and goodie bags, and children shared stories. They had face painting booths and set up stations for children to decorate cookies and make ornaments.

*Serving from the Heart for Children and Youth!*



## *Sue Hembrook for Department President*

Sue Hembrook announces her candidacy for Department President. Her journey in the American Legion Auxiliary began 22 years ago at the unit level. In addition to chairing many committees in her unit, she served as Unit President for six years. She also was the 4th District President and President of the Milwaukee County Conference of Units. On the department level she has served as Education Chairman, Strategic Planning Group Co-Leader, Director of Hospital Volunteers, Representative at the Dayton Care Center and Poppy Shop Supervisor.

She was also appointed to positions at the National level: 2015-2016 Legislative Committee, 2016-2017 Education Central Division Chairman, 2018-2019 Poppy Committee, 2019-2021 Central Division Children & Youth Chairman, 2021-2022 Central Division VA&R Chairman, 2022-2023 Central Division Americanism Chairman, 2023-2024 Central Division National Security Chairman, and currently Central Division Poppy Chairman.

She is eligible for membership through the service of her late father, Norton Kaiser, a WWII Army Veteran, and that of her husband, Gene, a Vietnam era Air Force Veteran. She has four children and nine grandchildren all of whom are members of the Legion Family. Her son Joe is currently a member of the Air Force Reserve and son-in-law Jeremy is serving actively in the Navy.

Sue and her husband are members of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Wilmot, WI. She has been involved in her faith community with their school, parish council and many other fundraising events sponsored by the church and school.

Her dedication to this organization and our Veterans has been steadfast. She supports the VAs wholeheartedly as they supported her family when her father contracted MS and was admitted to a study being done by the Milwaukee VA. She knows that her Dad had a much better and longer life due to the care given him and also the support given to the family. She also realizes the hardships incurred by the families of our military both active duty and reserve as she witnesses them firsthand through the lives of the families of her daughter and son.



**Sue Hembrook**

## *Amy Luft for Senior Vice President*

Amy Luft announces her candidacy for the position of Department Senior Vice President. Amy is endorsed for this position by Rose-Harms Unit 355 in Grafton and the Ozaukee County Council.

As a Paid-Up-For-Life 18-year member, Amy's membership honors her late father Robert Akright, a WWII Army Veteran. Amy's passion for the American Legion Auxiliary has blessed her with many opportunities. She has served in several different officer positions including President of her unit, county and 2nd District. Amy also has held many different areas at the department level, currently serving as the Department 1st Vice President and Membership Chair. Her past chairmanships have included Americanism (winning the National Award for Best Americanism Program), Leadership (winning the Department Award for Excellence), National Security, Public Relations and Membership team. In addition, she co-chaired ALA In The Know and served on the Strategic Planning Committee. At the national level, Amy had the honor of serving as the National Convention Chairman for the 2022 National Convention in Milwaukee and last year served as the National Leadership Chair for Central Division. Amy currently serves as the National Legislative Vice Chair.

Amy has attended several national Mission Training classes and completed many ALA Academy courses. She is also a graduate of the Wisconsin American Legion College. As a member of Stars & Stripes Honor Flight since 2009, Amy served as Vice President for 10 years and continues to serve as an ambassador for the program. To date she has participated in 54 honor flights. Amy is also a member of the VFW Auxiliary Unit 5373 of Ozaukee County. She volunteers with Interfaith Caregivers, Meals-On-Wheels and has served as a Village Trustee for the Village of Grafton since 2020. Amy has a degree in business management and has spent over 22 years in sales and marketing in the senior healthcare industry. Currently Amy works in the nonprofit sector at a local food pantry. Amy and her husband Todd have two daughters and two grandsons who belong to the American Legion Family. Amy's goal is to promote the initiatives and programs of The American Legion Family while supporting and advocating for Veterans, military and their families.



**Amy Luft**

## *Christina Petranovich for 1st Vice President*

Christina Petranovich announces her candidacy for Department 1st Vice President and is a 22 year Paid-Up-For-Life member. She served as chaplain, secretary, and President of Unit 118 in Thorp. She was District 7 President for almost 2 terms, taking over the position when her predecessor stepped down. She has been a district chairman of several programs, including Poppy, Juniors, National Security, and Public Relations. Christina has attended several department and national conventions and mission trainings. She is very involved in her community and church and served on the parish council, several parish committees, and was a Girl Scout leader when her daughters were younger.

Christina was reluctant to join the ALA when first asked by her mother-in-law, Genevieve. She proactively signed up her daughters for membership when they were born, but was very vocal in telling Genevieve that she did not have the time nor desire to be involved in another organization. Her daughters, very active Junior members, finally convinced her to join and take an active role. Her desire is to see every unit in Wisconsin get involved and have Junior members, and to tap into their enthusiasm and love for Veterans and this wonderful organization.

Christina is eligible for membership through her father who served in the U.S. Army; her oldest son, a former Marine who is currently stationed at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan with the U.S. Coast Guard; two brothers who served in the USMC and Navy; one sister who was in the USMC; and her middle son who was a soldier with the U.S. Army National Guard.

Christina is a Postmaster in Thorp and has worked for the USPS for the past 32 years, currently working as a Wisconsin District Lead for the Route, Count and Inspection Team.

She has been married to her husband, Wayne, for 34 years and they have six children, one step-daughter, four grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, two step-great-grandsons, with two brand new grandbabies on the way!

She has a passion for God and Country and feels strongly about advocating for our military, our youth and our Veterans. Thank you for your consideration and support.



**Christina Petranovich**

## *Danie Wilson for 1st Vice President*

Danie Wilson is excited to announce her candidacy for the position of Department 1st Vice President. Danie is endorsed for this position by the Sheboygan County American Legion Auxiliary and Prescott-Bayens Unit 83 in Sheboygan.

Danie found her passion for Veterans as a member of Military Family Connect. Families being separated by deployments and homeless Veterans tugged at her heart. She learned of the American Legion Auxiliary; an organization helping Veterans and a way to make a difference.

As a Paid-Up-For-Life member, the American Legion Auxiliary has provided her many avenues of service over the past 17 years through holding various officer positions at the unit, county and district levels, including 2nd District President. Danie was privileged to serve as Department Chairman for a number of Auxiliary programs. As County President, Sheboygan County Council received the Department Award for Excellence.

Danie enjoyed being a Badger Girls State Counselor for five years, taking ALA Academy Courses, attending several national Mission Training classes, attending ALA In The Know sessions, and being a graduate of the Wisconsin American Legion College.

Currently, Danie serves the 2nd District as 1st Vice President, Membership Chairman, her unit as President, Membership Chairman and Badger Girls State Chairman.

Eligibility in the American Legion Auxiliary is founded on her father's WWII service, brother's Vietnam service, and son, an Air Force Veteran currently serving in the Air National Guard. Five granddaughters are Auxiliary members; one being a seasoned Stars and Stripes Honor Flight Poppy Princess.

In her church she is working with resettling vetted refugee families making new lives in our communities.

Going forward it is Danie's goal to continue advocating for Veterans, military and their families utilizing the programs and tools of the American Legion Family. God Bless the USA!



**Danie Wilson**

## *Maggie Geiger for National Executive Committeeperson*

Maggie Geiger wishes to announce her candidacy for the position of National Executive Committeeperson to represent the Department of Wisconsin.

Maggie Geiger is a 20-year member of Peter Wollner Unit 288 in Cedarburg. Her eligibility is through the service of her late father, Herbert "Buck" Masters, a WWII Veteran.

Maggie has been an active member on the unit, county, district, and department levels, serving as Department President 2023-2024. While president of Unit 288, they were honored to receive the National Presidents Award for Excellence in 2013-2014.

She has served the Department on numerous committees and in chairmanships and offices, as well as committees and chairmanships on the unit, county and district levels. Currently, Maggie serves as the Department Standing Rules Chair, Legislative Chair, Auxiliary Consultant for Camp American Legion, and Alternate NEC.

Attending National Mission Training sessions, Legion College Graduate, Midwinter presenter, ALA In The Know presenter, and attending the Department Conven-

tion annually, Maggie understands the importance of keeping members informed. It is vitally important not only on the department level but as well as what is happening on the national level. She believes in the importance of the ALA mission and making sure that stays viable for years to come. The National Executive Committeeperson is very important to our department as well as our members – the more we know, the better we serve.

As an American Legion Auxiliary member, Maggie proudly volunteers and supports The American Legion and the entire American Legion Family. We are the strongest when we serve together!

Maggie and her husband Brian have been married 49 years and they have two children and four grandchildren, who are all members of the American Legion Family.



**Maggie Geiger**



## *Dawn Rudey for 2nd Vice President*

I come from a long line of military including uncles in different branches of the military, my father who served in both the Army and Navy during WWII, two older brothers served in the Marine Corps, and my son Travis who served in the Army during Operation Iraqi Freedom (1999 – 2005).

I have been an Auxiliary member since 2003. I started out as a quiet member for a couple years till I attended my first state convention in Middleton. I was full of questions and wonder. When I grew up in Beaver Dam, I knew nothing of The American Legion, the Auxiliary, or what they represented in the community. I grew up and moved to Horicon, where my husband and I raised our two children Travis and Elizabeth, both members of the Legion family along with my granddaughter Taylor.

I served as the ways and means chairperson for Horicon Unit 157 for three years before I was mentored by two very important people in my life, Nadine Gadow and Betty Kell. I became Unit President, not once or twice, but three times. Then I became the Dodge County President and served at the district level as the District President from 2015 - 2016. After my term I served as the ways and means chairperson where I guided a car show event for the Candidate for National Commander along with many 2nd District Sweepstakes to raise money to support Veterans organizations throughout Wisconsin.

I am now a member of Robert W. Ginther Unit 521 of Fox Lake and serve as unit parliamentarian. Our unit helps our Legionnaires with pork chop dinners, brat fries and bake sales and we participate in the Memorial Day and Veterans Day services. I have worked at Marlin Technologies for 20 years and convinced the owners to hang a large flag in our building to show our pride in the American flag to customers and employees. I have headed up the credentials committee at state convention for the last three years. I enjoy what I do for the ALA and especially our Veterans. May God bless our Veterans and the USA!



**Dawn Rudey**

## *Betty Stone for 2nd Vice President*

Betty Stone announces her candidacy for Department Second Vice President for 2025-2026. She has been an American Legion Auxiliary member for the last 48 years and held the following offices in the ALA: Unit – President, Vice President, Treasurer, which includes Membership Chairman, and Badger Girls State Chairman; County – President; District – 2nd Vice President and VA&R Chairman, 1st Vice President and Membership Chairman, President five times for two years each; Department – Scholarship Chairman, Chaplain, Historian and on the Department Membership Committee.

Outside of ALA, Betty has been in church work since age 16 teaching Sunday School, Youth Groups, Bible Studies, and planning events. Currently, she is the facilitator for the prayer group that meets once a week. She is also in charge of the yearly Ladies Encounter at her church and involved in Church camp where she has taught classes for the youth, cooked in camp, and a financial supporter. Also, taking part in Community activities, as a Sheldon Village Board Trustee and volunteering at the local Elementary School as a Forester Grandma three days a week.

The ALA Preamble states, “For God and Country we associate ourselves together...” Our Mission is to serve others not self through the many programs and activities we support and participate in throughout the year. We serve Veterans and also the Community.

Reading the history of our Unit and District is a motivating factor to continue to serve our Veterans and community with enthusiasm. Thank you for considering Betty’s candidacy for Second Vice President.



**Betty Stone**

## *Donna Jensen for Department Historian*

Donna Jensen is announcing her candidacy for the office of Department Historian for 2025-2026. She is a Paid Up For Life member and has belonged to the American Legion Auxiliary since 2006. Her eligibility is through her late brother, John Powers, who served in the Air Force during the Vietnam era and her husband, Past Department Commander Wayne Jensen, who served in the Navy during the Vietnam era and also the Navy Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve and Air Force Reserve.

Donna has experience on many levels and is currently serving as Department Chaplain for the second time. She also served as a Department Chairman for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Children & Youth, and Fundraising and was a member of the Leadership Committee. On the district level, she has held the offices of President, Secretary, Historian, Sergeant at Arms and Chaplain as well as chairman for many programs. She is currently the Milwaukee County President and this will be her 5th year volunteering at ALA Badger Girls State.

Along with her husband, Donna has attended Department Conventions since she joined the Auxiliary. She has also attended National Conventions for the past 25 years and volunteered at the three National Conventions held in Milwaukee in 2000, 2010 and 2022. In addition, she has attended Auxiliary National Mission Training and regularly attended ALA In The Know.

She retired 15 years ago from Travelers Insurance after working there for 25 years. Since retiring she volunteers for numerous events at her church and has been a member of the choir for over 30 years, including singing with the funeral choir. She and Wayne have been married for 54 years and have two daughters and two granddaughters, who are all members of the American Legion Family.

Donna has the support of her family and endorsements from her Unit, 4th District and Milwaukee County. She humbly asks for your support for her continued service to the Auxiliary through the office of Department Historian.



**Donna Jensen**

## *Christine Johnsen for Department Historian*

Dr. Christine Johnsen enthusiastically announces her candidacy for ALA Department of Wisconsin Historian. She is a 23-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary and her eligibility is through the service of her husband, Cliff, a 12-year Veteran of the Air Force, and her stepson, Clifford, who served for 8 years as a corpsman in the Navy. Christine and Cliff have a blended family of three daughters, three sons, and two grandsons.

Previously a member in District 8, Christine is currently an active member of, and endorsed by, the e-unit, Mumm-Welsh Unit 352, Cassville. She has held multiple leadership positions in her units, District 8, and Department, including Department Sergeant at Arms, Education Chairman, Public Relations committee, and currently Junior Activities Chairman. Having herself been a citizen of ALABGS, Christine has returned to serve ALA Badger Girls State as a nurse since 2016, and as Lead Nurse since 2022.

Christine recognizes the importance of staying informed and involved. She has completed all available courses in the ALA Academy and has attended National Mission Training and Girls State/Girls Nation Leadership Conference. She attended fourteen of the last fifteen National Conventions and was honored to serve as the Mailroom Chair for the 2022 ALA National Convention in Milwaukee.

Professionally, Christine is a nurse practitioner and currently sees patients with complex healthcare needs in their home setting, statewide. She is also self-employed as a consultant in healthcare technology and has traveled throughout the United States to provide advisory services to over eighty healthcare organizations. Dr. Johnsen continues to be an educator, speaker, mentor, and leader in the healthcare industry and a staunch advocate for healthcare access for Veterans, seniors, and underserved populations.

Christine is honored to serve our Veterans, military, their families, and the community, and humbly thanks you for your consideration and support.



**Christine Johnsen**

## *Sandy Mack for Department Chaplain*

Sandy Mack is announcing her candidacy for the office of Department Chaplain. Sandy is a 14-year member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 288 in Cedarburg and joined in honor of her father, Paul Golabiewski, who served in WWII in the Marine Corps.

Sandy graduated from MPTC with a degree as an Accounting Assistant, then changed the direction of her career. Two American Family Insurance agents have employed her and she is currently still working. She has dedicated over 30 years of service between the two agents. She holds a License with the Office of Commissioner to provide Life, Health, Property and Casualty Insurance to Wisconsin residents. She holds a Certificate of Appointment from the Selective Service System and

appointed to the position of Local Board Member of the State of Wisconsin.

She has attended District Conferences, Department Conventions, National Conventions, ALAITS and other training/leadership meetings. Sandy has also served as the National Page Chair for the 2022 National Convention held in Milwaukee.

Sandy has held the unit positions of President, Secretary and served on the Executive Board. On the county level, she served as President, 1st Vice, Secretary, and Parliamentarian. At the district level, she served as President, 1st Vice/Membership Chair and on the department level, as Community Service Chair along with PR Chair.

Sandy’s long-term goal is to continue working as long

as possible and serving the mission of “service not self.” It is not what she has achieved, it is where her heart is, taking one day at a time assisting Veterans, our military (at home and abroad), and their families. Sandy has received endorsements at both the Unit and County levels.

Sandy and her husband, Howie, are celebrating their 50th anniversary in March. They have two daughters and six grandchildren.

Sandy has studied with different religions and found the one that serves her best is nondenominational. This is Christian based and not affiliated with a specific denomination. Sandy’s beliefs are in the word of God. She is asking for your support and the opportunity to serve as your 2025-2026 Department Chaplain.



**Sandy Mack**





**Jim Johnson**  
Department  
Commander

**Looking Forward:  
Strengthening  
The American Legion**

As we celebrate 106 years of The American Legion, we take pride in our accomplishments, but we cannot rest on them. Instead, we must focus on what lies ahead. Our mission of service to Veterans, their families, and our communities is ongoing. Have we done enough? That question isn't meant to challenge what we've achieved but to spark a conversation about our future. Our strength lies in our resolve to continue serving and strengthening The American Legion.

As you read this issue of the *Badger Legionnaire*, ask yourself: Am I engaged in our

**DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**

mission and purpose? Let the world see your passion for The American Legion, our Pillars and our commitment to service.

Looking ahead, we must use our past successes as a foundation for future growth. To do that, we need strong leaders at every level of our organization. Leadership selection is, or should be, happening across The American Legion. As you participate in this process, I encourage you to choose servant leaders, those who put the needs of their fellow Legionnaires before their own. True leaders don't just direct; they roll up their sleeves, get to work, and inspire others to do the same.

But leadership is a two-way street. To attract and retain strong leaders, we must support them. We must respect their commitment and stand behind them as they take

on the responsibility of guiding our organization. Past Commanders have continuing responsibilities. "You possess a great wealth of knowledge gained through your leadership experience. Place this wisdom at the disposal of your successors in order that your comrades may benefit there from." (Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies) Be The One for each other in all aspects of service, and you will achieve your goal. Through unity, dedication, and unwavering support, success becomes a shared victory.

The American Legion is the largest volunteer Veterans service organization in the country. To keep Wisconsin #LegionStrong, we need dedicated leaders and engaged members working together. Our best days are still ahead, let's build them together.



**Becky Mueller**  
2024-2025  
Department  
President

**PRESIDENT'S  
MESSAGE**

**SPRING HAS SPRUNG!**  
Our clocks have jumped ahead and so have our schedules. Time to do our accounting of all the activities and events we did over the past reporting

year. So much has been accomplished – so many lives have been touched. Continue to *Be The One* to make a difference or even save a life!

I encourage each of you, with your units, to report your activities on the impact report and send it to your District Presidents. I know they are eagerly waiting to hear from you. Our Department Chairpersons are anticipating reports of how our Auxiliary has worked the programs and the success stories to be shared. Please send in those reports by April 15. Don't wait until the last minute – they are too important not to complete and be counted in our reports sent to National and Congress. What you do MATTERS!! P.S. – Don't forget to send in your nominations for the Heart of the ALA Award. I have already received some, but I may have to give more awards as you continue to serve from the depths of your hearts.

Many of you are getting your bowling balls warmed up. Have fun! Just because we work hard to serve our veterans, military and each other doesn't mean we can't have fun doing it.

Spring Conferences are already planned. I am looking forward to attending as many as I can. I know you will welcome my officers who will bring greetings in my absence. Your hospitality is appreciated. I can't wait to hear all the reports about your achievements and to welcome your new officers if you hold elections. Don't forget to nominate Alternates for the National Convention. Please plan to join together for the Department Convention in July.

By the time you read this – I will have had the honor of presenting new charters to Mt. Horeb and Montello Auxiliary units. Welcome to the Legion Family! It is so much fun celebrating with our units on their achievements. More areas are looking into starting Auxiliary units afresh ... exciting times!

Wisconsin has achieved National's membership goal of 85% by March 15, 2025. Congratulations on all your hard work and encouraging others to renew or join our organization. The next goal is in sight, and I know working together we can achieve that also.

Continue your magnificent work – you are amazing! Blessings for a joyous Easter season.



**Allen Watry**  
SAL Detachment  
Commander

Last time I commented we just finished a great Midwinter Conference. What I loved at Midwinter was hearing about the great things happening at the local level. Since then I have been traveling around the state and continue to be amazed at all the great work happening. There are just too many examples to share so I will just say THANK YOU for all you are doing!!!

We are now in the final quarter of the 2024/2025 Administrative year. This means there are several items which need to be com-

**SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER**

pleted. First is submitting Squadron Data Reports. The reports were mailed out late March, we need every Squadron to return them. Even if nothing has changed, please return them to confirm the information on file is correct.

Second is Consolidated Squadron Reports. These, like the Squadron Data Reports, need to be filled out each year. This year they are due May 31. These reports can be used to help your local Legion Family develop a Community Impact Report. The CSRs are also used to generate State and National Impact Reports. They are also a piece of the criteria for the awards which will be handed out at Convention. So please make sure your Squadron is submitting

your report. More information (including the form) can be found on the Detachment Website [www.wisal.org](http://www.wisal.org).

Finally, start to identify your delegates for our State Convention. This year Convention will be in Green Bay the weekend of July 18. We will be celebrating our successes of the past 12 months and prepare for the next 12 months. I hope your squadron will be represented. More information can be found at [www.wilegion.org](http://www.wilegion.org) or [www.wisal.org](http://www.wisal.org).

To close, keep up the great work. We ARE making a positive impact in our Communities, State, and Nation.

For God and Country.



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

Greetings to my fellow Wisconsin Legion, Auxiliary & Sons of the American Legion members. Mother nature has sure been giving us a roller coaster ride. I was out enjoying the wind in my face on Friday and now Sunday we have a fresh covering of snow. Not what we motorcyclists want to have. Planning has really started for the summer season. All our efforts to support the military and Veterans as well as participate in many parades takes a lot of preplanning to ensure we're ready.

One of the questions I hear a lot is who is eligible to join the Legion Riders. You must

**LEGION RIDERS DIRECTOR**

be a current member or eligible member of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of the American Legion. Additionally, be a registered owner (member or spouse) of a motorcycle of at least 500 cc and lastly, hold a current motorcycle endorsement (member or spouse). So, if you are receiving this publication and enjoy the "freedom of the road" on two wheels (or three!), please consider joining.

Our mission is to participate in parades and other ceremonies that are in keeping with the aims and purposes of The American Legion. Promote motorcycle safety and provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share the same interests while promoting and supporting the programs of The American

Legion. We are not a motorcycle club. We are a group of American Legion Family Members who ride for a cause. Our causes range from the very local level helping a Veteran or a Legion post all the way up to supporting the Veterans and Children Foundation at the national level.

The Wisconsin Legion Riders – Cruise for a Cause, "Be the One for WI – 25" is coming up in June. See article in this publication for more info and registration link.

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](mailto:alrawi.director@gmail.com). Our next meeting after the publication of this will be at 1 p.m. on May 3 at Post 263 in New London, WI.



**County Veterans Service Officers Association  
of Wisconsin**

**EVERY COUNTY AND TRIBE IN WISCONSIN STANDS READY  
TO SERVE ALL THOSE WHO SERVED AT NO COST TO YOU.**

*Your local Veteran Advocates, serving you since 1935*

