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, DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN IS TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

2025-2026 DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP



Front row sitting: (L-R) Vice Commander Rita Rindahl, Vice Commander Dave Steinert, Vice Commander Steve Kohnke, Vice Commander Larry Larson, Department Commander Nathan Bond, Department Adjutant Julie Muhle, Judge Advocate David Bretl, Historian Morris Sadicario and Chaplain Virgil Smith. Back row standing: (L-R) NECman Robert Shappell, Past Department Commander Jim Johnson, Sergeant at Arms Aimee Korger, 1st District Commander Candace Rothering, 2nd District Commander Joe Leone, 3rd District Commander Dan O'Brien, 4th District Commander Andrew Minch, 5th District Commander Craig Ellis, 6th District Commander Ken Flock, 8th District Commander Penny Peeters, 9th District Commander Terry McNulty, 10th District Commander Felicia Decker, 11th District Commander Gerry Johnson, Sergeant at Arms John Berg, Past Department Commander Karl Stuvengen and Past Department Commander Greg Eirich. Not pictured: 7th District Commander Chet Faith, and 12th District Commander Joe Roberts.

NATIONAL COMMANDER LACOURSIERE VISITS LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

the Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy (WALLECA) this past June. He was accompanied by NECman Bob Shappell and Alternate NECman Karl Stuvengen. While visiting the academy, Commander LaCoursiere joined the cadets, WALLE-CA Director of Training and now Past Department

National Commander James LaCoursiere Jr. visited Commander Jim Johnson and the WALLECA staff for a Be The One walk. One of the cadets was chosen to carry the Be The One flag on the walk. Commander LaCoursiere spoke with the cadets about the Be The One mission.

SEE LACOURSIERE, PAGE 3



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



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Historian Morris Sadicario

Sergeant-at-Arms John Berg Aimee Korger

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> District Commanders 1st - Candace Rothering 2nd – Joe Leone 3rd – Dan O'Brien 4th – Andrew Minch 5th - Craig Ellis 6th - Ken Flock 7th - Chet Faith 8th – Penny Peeters 9th – Terry McNulty 10th – Felicia Decker 11th – Gerry Johnson 12th – Joe Roberts

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 Sue Hembrook, 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

Another Route to Invest in Wisconsin's Future

Another wonderful session of Badger Boys State concluded in Eau Claire in June, and it was—as usual - a fun and life-changing experience for our citizens as they learned about our government, each other, and themselves. The program's forward momentum continues as we invest in our citizens through tools that make BBS more effective, responsive, and relevant to our ever-changing world. Of course, we couldn't do any of it without the continued support of our many local Legion posts throughout the state, as well as sponsorships from other benevolent societies in Wisconsin's wonderful communities. The sponsorships you all provide each year are vital to the program's success, and we sincerely thank you for your continued support.



You may not be aware, however, of another part of our Boys State program that provides a great service to the citizens and Legion posts in our collective effort. The Badger Boys State Alumni Association (BBSAA) is an organization within Badger

Boys State, established with one goal of supporting some alumni meet-ups across the country each year. The main goal of the BBSAA, however, is to provide additional financial support to the program to keep the per-citizen cost low. With the dollars generated by the BBSAA each year assisting in covering some costs that would likely have either been tacked on to the sponsorship cost or cut from the budget. The system we have allows us to bridge those potential gaps without regularly raising the sponsorship fee.

The support each Legion post provides to deserving citizens from their local schools each year is vital to the continuation of Badger Boys State, and we recognize that a sponsorship may be a tall order

for smaller posts in our state. The BBSAA helps to keep the sponsorship cost as steady as we can. So, if you as an individual are looking to make a contribution that will have meaningful reverberations for years to come, consider making a donation to the Badger Boys State Alumni Association. Not only would it be an investment in our great program of The American Legion, but it will go a long way in keeping the program affordable for our sponsoring partners across the state. Before the end of this decade, Badger Boys State will see our seventh generation of young minds learn about our yet-unfolding experiment. We are making every effort to ensure that our program is sustainable for our future.

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION HOSTS THE 2025 CHAPLAINS RETREAT

Bv: John Gessner Sparta Post 100

Annually, chaplains from across the state meet for a weekend retreat at Camp American Legion. This year's retreat was held from May 30 to June 1. The retreat allows chaplains to share information and to enjoy the Northwoods provided by camp. Topics included responsibilities of chaplains, various services performed by chaplains, requirements for burials on National Cemeteries, specifically the Northwoods National cemetery, military funeral honors, and conducting a non-denominational church service. Three featured topics included a presentation by Gold Star dad Brian Jopek, chaplains in World War One by



John Gessner, and Flowers of Remembrance program at Arlington National Cemetery presented by A.J. Feucht.

Throughout the weekend, chaplains

their posts and fellow legionnaires. In the process, they strengthened their abilities to be a "force multiplier" to their commanders on the accomshared ideas on how better to serve plishment of their mission. This was the fourth annual retreat conducted following the COVID shut down.

Next year's retreat will take on a slightly different format, that of a weekly retreat rather than a weekend. About the same number of sessions will be held, but the week format will allow for additional time to enjoy the activities and facilities that camp has to offer. Post, Auxiliary, Sons and Rider Chaplains, if you are interested in attending, mark your calendars for the week of June 1-5, 2026, for the next retreat. Information will be sent via e-mail or through the U.S. Mail. If you don't hear anything about the retreat by late January 2026, please contact Chaplain John Gessner at japgessner801@gmail.com or 815-713-7229 with your contact information.

Join Veterans, family members & civilians from across the State of Wisconsin



Saturday, September 20 Phillips, Wisconsin



Hosted by American Legion Post 362, Kennan, WI.

The American Legion is leading a nationwide effort — BE THE ONE— to eliminate the stigma related to mental health treatment, and in turn, lower the number of Veterans who die by suicide every day. Estimates show 22 Veterans are lost to suicide daily. The American Legion has elevated

BE THE ONE to be its primary mission, empowering Veterans, service members, their family members and civilians to act appropriately when a Veteran may be at risk.

For more information, registration and donation opportunities please go to the QR code or www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/walk-for-the-22-walk-22-miles-to-help-prevent-veteran-suicide

Or contact American Legion Post 362 Commander, Rosanna Bogle, at 608-387-2670 or Rossana.bogle@outlook.com

All proceeds go towards Department of Wisconsin's **Troop & Family** Support Fund



LACOURSIERE-

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A reporter and photographer from the National American Legion magazine also visited WALLECA and did a story about the academy and the National Commander's visit. To access this article, follow this link: https:// www.legion.org/Information-Center/ News/Junior-Law/2025/june/a-springboard-to-a-career-in-law-enforcement.

The 2025 academy was held June 23-

WHAT

IF . . .

27 at the Wisconsin State Patrol Acade-





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

Legionnaire EA + steps in to help you with more than 20 emergency and medical services ... to help you focus on your recovery and NOT on the costs (or even details like lining up second opinions or flying loved ones home).*

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Secure your EA + protection right away, you're guaranteed the same low price for a FULL year.







Suicide Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility

There's Plenty You Can Do to Save a Life!

Four Critical Questions

- Do you know how to recognize the signs of distress?
 Do you know how to initiate a conversation with someone exhibiting signs of distress or depression?
- Would you be able to ask someone about their suicidal thoughts?
- Do you know how to help someone who is contemplating death by

If you answered "No" to any of these questions, the free online R.A.C.E. Suicide Prevention Training is for you!

Next Series **Begins**

Two Time

Options:

6:00 pm

Central Time

•Get Informed

•Get Involved

·Save a Life

The R.A.C.E. Suicide Prevention training is three one-hour sessions delivered on three consecutive Tuesdays starting 28 October. The **Oct 28** training is applicable for anyone, including you! The training prepares you to *Recognize* the often subtle signs of distress. You will learn how to Ask the person about any suicidal thoughts, demon-strate that you Care and ways to offer Hope that can help the person to choose life versus death. The last step in the R.A.C.E. model is 11:30 am or learning different *Escort* options so the person receives professional care. Let's work together to Save Lives—One Life at a Time!

Register Today at

www.RACESuicidePrevention.us















AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL COMMANDER VISITS SPARTA

By: John Gessner Herald Staff Writer

On June 24, the Sparta American Legion Post 100 hosted the American Legion National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr. on his tour visiting Legion units throughout the United States. Elected for a one-year term, he will spend about 11 months on the road and in the air, visiting Legion posts and military serving worldwide. To date, he has visited 44 states, Europe and Asia. He calls anywhere there is a Legion family, his home.

He is an Air Force Veteran and has been a longtime field representative for the American Legion Department of Connecticut's Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund, which financially assists Veterans and their families in need. Commander LaCoursiere has held many leadership positions at The American Legion post, department and national levels. He is a member of American Legion Post 91 in Moosup, Connecticut. He has also served as a national vice commander, Connecticut state commander, and chairman of the National Legislative Commission.

As national commander, LaCoursiere is strongly committed to raising awareness for The American Legion's "Be The One" mission to prevent Veteran and family member suicides. He is committed to changing lives and saving lives. He does so by embodying the senses, the heart and by compassion. He figures he can speak to you or speak with you. He prefers to speak with someone so that they can feel his compassion and commitment.

Although he regularly meets with and testifies before Congress on Veteran and family-related issues, his real passion is meeting with families and service members to where he can get the real picture. He can truly be the voice of service. He has a genuine love for military families and the USA of which he spells "LUV," one of



his guiding principles meaning loyalty, unity and valor. He was born to a military family in Honolulu, Hawaii. LaCoursiere is married to wife Lisa, and has two children (Patrick and Meghan), and three stepchildren (Jason, Kaylene and the late Johnathan). In August, he will turn the leadership over to a new commander and return to his home post in Connecticut.

While here in Wisconsin, he acknowledged several in leadership positions including past Department Commander Karl Stuvengen, Department Adjutant and past Department Commander Julie Muhle, National Executive Committeeman Robert Shappell and Sparta Post 100 Commander Tim Hyma. About 100 Legion members from around the area, family members, scouts and Fort McCoy soldiers attended the event.

AN AMAZING 106TH WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT CONVENTION



Michelle Adams Past Department Historian

The 106th Wisconsin Department Convention was amazing! The scheduled speakers were outstanding! The members' speeches were as well, heartfelt and powerful. This convention is best described as an outpouring of love and support. Truly an emotionally charged experience. Running between Legion and Auxiliary events had me in a constant rush, but I absorbed each moment of encouragement and support given to myself and others. We can be deservedly proud! Thank you, also, to those whose trust in me allowed them to share their personal stories. It is a safe and cherished gift to have received! I simply cannot adequately express how profoundly I am moved by everyone's generosity. I am eternally grateful. I will always remember it. It has been an absolute honor being your historian these past two years! It ran parallel to the most devastating two years in my personal family life. Our missions with Buddy Checks and being Legion-Family strong, The American Legion is my life raft, my safe place. I am appreciative and grateful to all of you. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your continuous trust and faith in me. God bless you, and God bless America!



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







LEFT: Norman Wolf (left). CENTER: Bob Bosold of WAXX radio. RIGHT: Post 175 Commander Kevin Cook as master of ceremonies.

LOYAL POST 175 CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

The Loyal American Legion Post 175 celebrated the 50th anniversary of completion of the Post home with a ceremony, meal, social and music by the Bear Creek Band on Saturday, April 26.

Commander Kevin Cook began with opening ceremonies, followed by posting of the colors by Ken Schmidt and Roger Mielke, POW/MIA chair prayer by Dave Lucht, and a brief history by Bob Bosold of WAXX radio and personal experience by Norman Wolf.

In the early 1970s, Legionnaires began talking about needing a hall for wedding receptions, dances, meetings and other activities.

With Legion members discussing the potential for a new Post building and a possible location, Jerry and Dee's Bar business was up for sale. This would provide the Legion with a liquor license to operate a new facility.

With the help of Ward Alderman Frank Degenhardt, a motion was made to sell property where an old rural school-house was being used as a community center.

The Citizens State Bank of Loyal advanced the money for the building's steel. The Legion signed a note for \$1,000, with a promise to pay off the note in five years.

In the fall of 1974 the building began to take shape. By winter it had been enclosed so the finish work could be done.

Legion members and their wives, along with many community members, assisted with the construction.

On April 26, 1975, the first event was held in the new Legion Hall. The official dedication would come on Memorial Day of that year with Howie Sturtz, serving as master of ceremonies.

From wedding receptions to anniversary parties, farm organization banquets to fish fries and steak feeds, the Post home became the go-to community activities center.

In 1975 a monthly steak feed was established. Proceeds from meals and other events help pay off the debt in 1982.

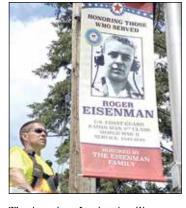
Other projects in the community the Legion assisted with, was acquiring the land across Bear Creek when the Soo Line Railroad abandoned the tracks, and in collaboration with other organizations and the city of Loyal, developing the park, pond and horseshoe court to the east of our building.

The Legion is a source of pride for the community. Its location makes it a center of activity during the annual Corn Festival, with proceeds going to numerous charities and scholarships for our youth.

WAUSAU VETERANS AVENUE OF HONOR

The American Legion "Veterans Avenue of Honor" banners for 2025 were hung by the Wausau City Electrical Department staff on May 13 and 14. The banners will remain on Grand Avenue through Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

This is the 5th year the banners have been displayed on the avenue. Sponsors for these banners often are family members, but occasionally corporations recognize their employees, or organizations have sponsored an honoree as well. This year, 50 banners are being placed interspaced with 17 U.S. flags. Besides banners dedicated to individual Veterans, this year banners were purchased to display special messages. Messages included "Duty - Honor - Country", or "For God and Country" and "Forever Grateful, Forever Proud". A sponsor gratefully recognized the American Legion Honor Guard and



The American Legion Auxiliary too.

The 2026 program will kick off next month. Registration forms can already be downloaded from our website – www.wausaupost10.com.

Click on "Banners" to access the information and files you need to submit your application or a family member. Any questions, please contact Bob Weller, Past Commander, at 715-571-3476 or email at pastcm-drbob@wausaupost10.com.



Story courtesy of Post 10 Past Commander Bob Weller. Photos courtesy of Bob Weller and Mike Heilmann, Post 10 Public Relations.





DARLINGTON POST 214 FLAGS

It is a family affair in Darlington when it comes to putting flags out on Main Street. The Darlington SAL instituted a program several years ago with putting flags on all the lampposts on Main Street. A couple of years later they started to line both sides of Veterans Park with Flags for special events such as Memorial Day Weekend. The King Family put all the SAL Flags out: Gerald King, a Darlington Post 214 Legion Member, his son Jason, Past SAL Commander for Squadron 214 and Jason's son Landon, a SAL member. A big thank you to the dedicated King family for making sure Darlington looks sharp for Memorial Day weekend. Pictured up in the boom truck is Landon putting flags in the holders and in Veterans Park, from the left, Landon King, Jason King and Gerald King.

POST 501 MADISON'S SCOUT DONATION



Severson-Cairns American Legion Post 501 in Madison presented an award totaling \$1,000 to Scout Pack 132, Scout Troop 132, and Scout Troop 146, all sponsored by Day Post 7591 of the VFW. From left, CDR Jerry Scalissi (501), CDR-elect Lukas Cross (7591), CDR Kerry McAllen (7591), Mark A. Wendricks, Scout Master, Scouting America Troop 132, Kevin Kramer (Chartered Organization Representative-7591), and PDVC Keith Lovell (501). This award is given in support of Scouting America.

POST 432 HAMMOND HOSTS MEMORIAL DAY





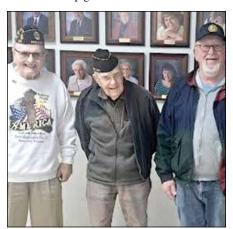
Hammond-Roberts Post 432 hosted two Memorial Day services with 17 Legion members participating. Post Commander Gary Hawkins hosted the event and Judy Jones, Auxiliary President, read a poem about Memorial Day and presented two Quilts of Valor. Joyful Brass provided the musical entertainment.



Veryle "Red" Sievert receives his 70-year membership certificate from Post Commander Patrick Amerson.

BLACK CREEK POST 332 RECOGNIZES LONG TERM MEMBERS

Members of Duhm/Masch American Legion Post 332 in Black Creek recognized Veryle "Red" Sievert for 70 years of continuous membership. Red served in the U.S. Air Force from 1948 until 1952. This milestone was also made even better when the Post welcomed its newest member putting the Post over 100% of its membership goal.



Black Creek 50-plus-year members Roger Dorn, "Red" Sievert and Steve Rettler (Not pictured: Gary Kaphingst, John Minlschmidt and Mary Meyer.)



Post members attending the April meeting honoring long-term members.

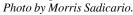
CORRECTIONS

from April edition:
Daniel Cheatle of Post 322 was incorrectly listed as deceased in the April edition Last Bugle listing.

from June edition:
Black Creek Post 332 was incorrectly referred to as Post 33 in the June Edition. Please see corrected article (above).

GESSNER WINS NATIONAL WRITERS CONTEST

John Gessner, Post 100 of Sparta, was awarded a firstplace writer's award from The American Legion National writer's competition. Gessner writes a weekly column for the Monroe County Herald newspaper titled: Wisconsin Legends & Lore which highlights military, gangster, ghost and general interest topics relating to Wisconsin's history. The award was presented by Department Commander Jim Johnson on behalf of the National HQ.



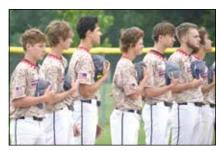


DISTRICT 10 LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR WINNER



With great honor, The American Legion of Wisconsin 10th District awards Gerald Eugene Pirk "Legionnaire of the Year" 2024-2025. In recognition of outstanding Leadership and Service as a member of The American Legion. Presenting is District Commander Rita Rindahl. Jerry is a Marine Corps Veteran having served from 1996 then retiring in 2022; then he immediately joined the Legion Whitehall post 191. Jerry cares about his fellow brothers and sisters. He has continually stepped up to the plate on such short notices. He is a true asset to the Legion and our communities. We are fortunate to have him amongst our ranks. Congratulations, Jerry!

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL OPENS SEASON IN MARKESAN





LEFT: Players stand at respectful attention as color guard members bear Old Glory proudly during the June 12 season home opening ceremony of the Markesan Junior American Legion Baseball team. RIGHT: Color Guard Members stand at attention as the Markesan Junior American Legion Baseball opening ceremony gets underway on June 12, with a home game in Markesan against Fond du Lac Springs. The ceremony includes color guards from the three American Legion Posts who sponsor the Markesan team: Brandon-Fairwater, Kingston and Markesan.

SUPERIOR POST 435 SPONSORS REDS LEGION BASEBALL





LEFT: Superior Reds Legion Team in their new uniforms. The team is sponsored by Post 435. RIGHT: Post Commander Liebaert presenting a check to Reds Team Manager Josh Edwards.



GREEN LAKE POST 306 PAYS TRIBUTE ON MEMORIAL DAY



Mark Kramer of the Green Lake Willis-Chapel American Legion Post 306 hands out small American flags to those attending the 2025 Memorial Day parade on Mill Street.

POST 234 MEMORIAL DAY



Volleys rip across the Fox River for a rifle salute delivered by Omro Post 234's Honor Guard during Memorial Day in Omro.

KINGSTON POST 395 MEMORIAL DAY



A wreath is hung on a stand next to Grand Lake, in remembrance of Veterans who were lost at sea, as part of the Memorial Day observances for Kingston American Legion Post 395.

SPOTLIGHT

SEND-OFF EVENT



Past National SAL Commander David Faust attending a send-off with the ALF dogs. See the banner display in the background.

BBS STOLES IN GREEN LAKE



Post 306 in Green Lake purchased stoles from the Badger Boys State store for the Badger Boys that they sponsor to wear at graduation. Pictured are the three Green Lake graduates who attended Badger Boys State in 2024.

Post 473 Quilt of Valor



Commander Mark Richardson of Potosi American Legion Post 473 congratulated Bill Funk (Vietnam Veteran) on receiving a Quilt of Valor.

POST 10 WAUSAU DONATES TO NORTHWOODS VETERANS HOMESTEAD

Carla Ruuskanen, Vice President, and Sandra Edington, Co-Founder and Board member of the Northwoods Veterans Homestead in Rhinelander, attended the Wausau American Legion Post 10 membership meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2025. They both gave an update on the project and spoke about the Homestead's future plans.

Tony Nardi, Commander of Post 10 presented a check to Carla and Sandra for the sponsorship of multiple tiny homes. The post is always looking for important ways to help our Veterans. The Northwoods Veterans Homestead is a reputable 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing crucial assistance to Wisconsin's homeless Veteran population.

The Northwoods Veterans Homestead is set to pioneer the first Veteran-specific homeless operation in northern Wisconsin, catering to all homeless Veterans in the state. The Homestead



Left to right, Carla Ruuskanen, Tony Nardi, Sandra Edington.

will encompass a spacious community center, sixteen cozy tiny homes, a Veterans' market/

shop, and a vibrant community garden. Their priority is to provide person-centered programming, tailoring services to meet the unique needs of each Veteran, empowering them to regain self-sufficiency and make meaningful contributions to their communities. Moreover, they ensure that homeless Veterans can focus on their future success without any financial burden.

The Northwoods Veterans Homestead program covers a wide range of essential life skills, including cooking, financial management, job searching, resume writing, and personal hygiene. Additionally, The Homestead collaborates with community partners to facilitate access to professional services in areas such as healthcare, legal aid, and counseling. By offering comprehensive support, they empower our Veterans to rebuild their lives and overcome the challenges they face.

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

Marshall Post 279 Officer Installation





LEFT: (L-R) New Post Commander Mason Lochner, installing officer is Department Vice Commander Jerry Hook, and outgoing Commander Cindy Brosig. RIGHT: (L-R): John Annen, Robert Zickert, Steve Roberts, Shane Brozowski, Matt Peterson, Jim Olson, Gary Johnson, Jane Cree, Dennis Riley, Pete Ponti, Mason Lochner and Installing Officer is Department Vice Commander Jerry Hook.

BIG TURNOUT FOR BASEBALL IN CROSS PLAINS





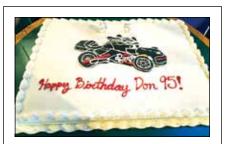
Post, Unit, and Squadron 245 Members of Cross Plains were in full view at the Middleton High School Baseball field to watch the Middleton Varsity Baseball team vs. Madison Memorial game. Bill Statz of Cross Plains threw the ceremonial first pitch, May 27.

CRUISE FOR A CAUSE RIDE



During the Cruise for a Cause Ride, the riders, like Mike Rynes (at right), stopped at Waunakee Post 360 on June 27.





HAPPY 95TH, DON!

Sparta Post 100 hosted a surprise birthday party for their oldest member Don Whitacre, who is 95 years old,

and a 41-year Post member, and a 15-year member of The Legion Riders. He seldom misses a Legion or Riders function. He can be found on Honor Flight



send-offs, receptions, funerals, Commander rides, and parades. He also makes annual trips to Texas, Arizona, Ohio, or wherever he feels like taking a ride on his bike. Post 100 takes great pride in having such a dedicated member.

GOLDEN AGE GAMES



Michael Foster from the Clarence Bean-Warren George Post 67 of Lake Mills recently participated in the 2025 National Veterans Golden Age Games held in Memphis, Tennessee, from May 31 through June 5. Mike competed in two events. The Air Pistol and Air Rifle competition taking first place and the Gold Medal for the Air Pistol and finishing 7th in the Air Rifle. The National

Veterans Golden Age Games are for participants in various age categories and divisions, including visually impaired and wheelchairs.

'GUNG HO' AWARD

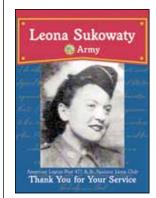


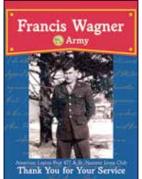
Pictured is Dept. Commander Jim Johnson (left) along with Third District Commander Dan O'Brien. Argyle Post Commander Jerry Gerber received the "Gung Ho" Award for the American Legion State of Wisconsin and was unable to attend. Jerry was unable to attend due to the rededication ceremony of the City Park Shelter that the Argyle Post spearheaded. Congratulations to Argyle Post 251 Post Commander Jerry on be awarded the "Gung Ho" Award.

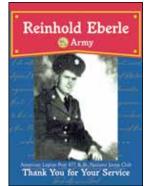
DAIRY BREAKFAST



Members of the Barron Brown-Selvig American Legion Post 212 helped out at the Barron County 50th annual Dairy Breakfast on June 7 held on the Kraft Dairy Farm south of Barron. The event was a free breakfast open to the public with over 3,500 attendees. Post members bussed tables for the morning. Pictured left to right: Senior Vice Dave Peterson, Spouse Denise Peterson, Spouse Beth Roth, Post Commander Greg Roth and Adjutant Dave Martinson.







VETERANS BANNERS IN VILLAGE OF ST. NAZIANZ

The Wagner-Eberle-Sukowaty American Legion Post 477 – St. Nazianz collaborated with the St. Nazianz Lions Club to bring Veteran banners to the Village of St. Nazianz.

The banners, which are sponsored by family and friends, provide an opportunity to recognize local Veterans and those currently serving. The initial 30 banners flew from Memorial Day through the 4th of July. The

The Wagner-Eberle-Sukowaty American second set of banners will be on display for agion Post 477 – St. Nazianz collaborated Veterans Day.

Post 477 leadership noted that many of the banners highlight Legionnaires, past and present. The banners have become a great conversation piece and a 'travel destination' with family members coming from throughout the state, and even Illinois, to see the banners.

POST 43 RIPON POLICE DEPARTMENT DONATIONS





AT LEFT: Ripon American Legion Post 43 presents a check to Ripon Police Officer Alexandra Tipton for the Bowl with Emergency Personnel event. FAR LEFT: At a recent Post meeting while getting introduced to K-9 Officer Biek, the new Ripon K-9, Ripon American Legion Post 43 presented a check to Ripon Police Officer Brandon Howell for the K-9 Fund.

POST 19 HARTFORD HOLDS FLAG DISPOSAL





On June 5, Courtney-Carr-Milner American Legion Post 19 of Hartford held their annual flag disposal in Woodlawn Park under the direction of Commander Mary K. Millikin with members of Post Honor Guard for retirement of American Flags.

POST 350 REEDSBURG IN THE BUTTERFEST PARADE



Reedsburg American Legion Post 350 along with the VFW and Marine Corp. League led the annual Butterfest Parade through the city.







POST 1 MARKS 100TH BIRTHDAY

Germantown Post 1 had the honor of hosting an event celebrating the 100th birthday of Post 1 member, George S. Mann Jr. He received a certificate from National recognizing his 100th Birthday and 59 years of continuous Legion membership. He served in the Coast Guard from 1943-46. An 18-piece jazz band provided entertainment.

RIVER FALLS BASEBALL



River Falls American Legion baseball coach Ryan Bishop with River Falls Sons of American Legion member Al Standaert and Commander Gary Lubich along with Legion Baseball player Blake Fredrickson accepting a check for \$670 donation to the River Falls American Legion baseball team money raised from a euchre tournament on May 18.

GRANTSBURG TRAP TEAM



Grantsburg Brask-Fossum-Janke Post 185 of the American Legion made a financial donation to the Grantsburg School's Trap Team to help defray expenses for supplies and trips to the state and national trapshooting events. Five members of the team will participate in the national event, and 15 will compete in the state event. Commander Michelle Marek is shown with the award certificate with trap team instructors Floyd Drohman and Doug Vaksdal as team members look on.



LEGION BALL IN PLYMOUTH



The first Legion baseball game in the 105-year history of Post 243 was held. The historical First Pitch was thrown by (L-R) Plymouth Mayor Don Pohlman, a 46-year member of Post 243; Dave Gehr, Vietnam War Veteran and 1965 American Legion Baseball All-Star team; and Roger Mathison, American Legion National Vice Commander and inductee into the Wisconsin American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame.

POST 122 FLAG DISPOSAL



Phillips Post 122, along with the VFW and Boy Scouts, held the yearly flag disposal service. Many flags were collected over the past year.

POST 360 WAUNAKEE MEMORIAL DAY





Waunakee American Legion Post 360 held Memorial Day events. Honors and a program were held at Waunakee area cemeteries; the Legion led the Memorial Day parade down Main Street in Waunakee and held a program on our Post grounds. The Poppy Queen is Jean Epping and the Poppy Princess is Brooke Nelson.

FREEDOM DAYS PARADE



The color guard of North Freedom Post 172, along with the Color Guard of Reedsburg Post 350, lead the parade at the North Freedom, Freedom Days Parade.

POST 313 BLACK EARTH FLAG DISPOSAL





Post 313 Black Earth held their flag disposal ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park in Black Earth on June 9.

POST 473 QUILT OF VALOR



SFC Craig Udelhoven (Army, retired) was home visiting family and friends, when he was honored with receiving a Quilt of Valor for his 26 years of service, three tours in Iraq and one tour in Afghanistan. Congratulating Craig is Commander Mark Richardson, left, American Legion Post 473 Potosi, and Roger Udelhoven, his dad, a Vietnam Veteran.

VETERANS MEMORIAL IN NEENAH



The unveiling of the newly renovated Veterans Memorial at Shattuck Park in Neenah took place on June 15. Commander Jim Johnson and Bob Borszich were in attendance.

CONCERT IN WAUNAKEE



Waunakee American Legion Post 360 was active and visible at the joint concert of the Waunakee Community Band and the 132D Army Band Wisconsin National Guard. They presented The Colors during the playing of our National Anthem. They presented a 21 Gun Salute with Taps as a memorial for those who have gone before us, and they presented the flag of each branch of service to include the Space Force during the Armed Forces Medley.

CRUISE FOR A CAUSE



The Legion Riders came to Darlington on Friday, June 27. The Riders were escorted into town by the Lafavette County Sheriff's Dept. and entered by riding under the American Flag provided by the Darlington Legion Dept. The Riders made six stops in our Third District, and we were proud to have them come to our part of the State. I have heard that it was a successful "Cruise for a Cause," and they had great weather. My grandsons were at the Post, and they were impressed. Pictured from left are Corey Doehrmann Legion Rider Director, **Allen Watry Detachment Commander for the** SAL and Past National Vice Commander Dave Gough. Dave announced that the Darlington American Legion Family donated \$1,000 to Cruise For a Cause.

SUBFEST SALUTE



The combined Honor Guard of American Legion Robert E. Burns Post 165 and VFW Post 1248 of Two Rivers and Manitowoc VFW were invited to fire a salute at SubFest at the Manitowoc Maritime Museum. Honoring not only the subs built in Manitowoc but all submarines and their crew. Some are still on eternal patrol.

DODGE COUNTY YOUTH GOVERNMENT DAY





Dodge County held their first Youth Government Day in six years. Judge Kristine Snow and Legion member Randy Nehls from Post 420 were instrumental in getting this resurrected. Twenty students learned about the sheriff's office, hazmat, and the County Board of Supervisors. In the afternoon they ran through a mock trial. Lunch was provided on behalf of the Dodge County Council. Six Legion members from the county also took part in the event.

POST 268 BRUCE HOLDS MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS





The Earl J. Conley Post 268 in Bruce held ceremonies on Memorial Day.

FAR LEFT: Incoming Commander Rick Ensenbach recognizing outgoing Commander Dave Brainerd for his leadership over the last five years.

LEFT: Commander Rick Ensenbach and Auxiliary President Gayle Brainerd placing Memorial Day wreaths at the Bruce Cemetery.

BADGER STATE SCHOLARSHIPS



American Legion Post 382 Henrizi-Schneider gave \$1,000 Badger State Scholarship Awards to Isaac Lynch and Zoe Toth from Menomonee Falls High School. L-R: Pam Chester Unit 382 Auxiliary, Jeff Paige Post 382 Badger Boys Chair, Tom Branta Commander, and Isaac Lynch (Badgers Boys State Scholarship Award). Not pictured is Zoe Toth (Badger Girls State Scholarship Award).

APPLETON FLAG DAY PARADE



The Neenah/Menasha Veterans Honor Guard won the Mayor's Trophy during the June 14 Appleton Flag Day Parade.

REEDSBURG MEMORIAL DAY

Reedsburg American Legion Post 350 put on a spectacular Memorial Day program with a simulated Veterans funeral describing how the honors are rendered to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. The pro-



gram walked the public through the honors to include the folding of the flag and a description of the meaning of each fold.

THREE GENERATIONS AT POST 91



Post 91 of Oconomowoc had three generations of military service (grandfather, dad, grandson) at Post 91 to honor the grandson going into the Air Force on the 10th of June. He graduates from Oconomowoc High School on June 7. The grandfather is Bill Ingersoll; the dad is Brad Ingersoll; and the son is Noah Ingersoll. We honor students as they enter the military at the high school commitment ceremony and at our Post. L-R: 1st Vice CDR Jerry Wendt, Bill Ingersoll, Brad Ingersoll, Noah Ingersoll, Adjutant Dale Saeger, and CDR Marty McFarland.



ONE FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS



At the Wisconsin American Legion Department Convention 2025 in Green Bay, the women Veterans gathered for a picture for history books. This is truly a time of women supporting women. These Veterans may belong to all three organizations: American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and Disabled American Veterans (DAV). Submitted by DVC Rita Rindahl.

POST 7 QUILT OF VALOR



Jeff Kennedy, right, was awarded the Quilt of Valor. He then gave the quilt to a son of a friend he served with in Vietnam. His friend died of Agent Orange. Jeff is a member of Legion Post 7 Rhinelander.

POST 434 SCHOLARSHIP



Commander Brandon Fettig of Oak Creek Post 434 and his committee presented Anneliese Oswald with the first annual Oelschlaeger-Dallmann Post 434 John Sagan Scholarship Award. Anneliese will be attending Georgetown University this fall to study pre-med.

RIVER FALLS EUCHRE



River Falls Sons of American Legion Squadron Commander Gary Lubich with members of the Auxiliary unit and four players from the River Falls American Legion baseball team working the 4th annual euchre tournament for the Legion Baseball team.

DISTRICT 12 COMMANDER



Scott Markle is smiling after receiving a three-ring binder from fellow Superior Post 435 member John Vaski. John made the binder for Scott with pictures and articles of Scott while he was the 12th District Commander. Post 435 thanked Scott for all his time and effort while serving as 12th District Commander. The members know Scott will remain active in The American Legion any way that he can.

James Bond WDVA Secretary

Greetings, Legionnaires! It was an honor to speak again at your state convention in Green Bay in July. Congratulations to your newly elected State Commander, Nathan Bond! I look forward to working with him to continue WDVA's productive and strong relationship with the Legion and the Auxiliary.

Maintaining strong relationships with our partners has been my top priority since Governor Evers appointed me Secretary a little over two years ago. When I spoke with you in the past, I told you I was going to need your help. And you did help. I am grateful for everything you've done over those two years to help us help more Veterans across the Badger State.

One of the benefits of being Secretary is that I get to travel across the state and meet with Veterans and Veteran advocates. These meetings have been so valuable to me. I appreciate hearing directly from Veterans in places like Rhinelander and Bayfield, Janesville and Chippewa Falls. The input I've gotten has led to meaningful changes.

One of those changes is our recently redesigned website

FLAGS ON GRAVES IN DARLINGTON



On Saturday, May 17, the Darlington American Legion Post, the Darlington SAL and students from Darlington High School went to Holy Rosary and Union Grove to place flags on the graves of Veterans. It was a good showing of support to make sure we walked the cemeteries and put a flag on each Veteran's Grave.

POST 299 FLAG RETIREMENT





American Legion Post 299 and VFW Post 10394, both of Hales Corners, held its annual American flag retirement ceremony on Memorial Day at the Hales Corners Veterans Memorial. The American flag is then presented to a Veteran or to first responders from the local community. The Franklin, WI, Police Department was the recipient of this year's retired flag.

WDVA SECRETARY

- WISVETS.COM. It's now mobile-device friendly and designed with the Veteran end-user experience in mind. If you have not done so recently, I encourage you to check it out. While you are there, you can learn about all the wonderful Veteran benefits Wisconsin provides for leisure activities such as reduced DNR fees for fishing and hunting, free or reduced fees on Wisconsin State Parks passes, and discounted tickets to attend one of Wisconsin's sporting events. Details can be found by clicking on the 'Benefits' menu on our homepage.

Unfortunately, too many Veterans are still unaware of the benefits that they have at their fingertips. Please help us by encouraging your fellow Veterans to take advantage of the options they may be eligible for such as the Wisconsin G.I. Bill, Veteran property tax credits, professional licensure waivers, Veteran farmer programs, Veteran-owned businesses, and many more.

Working together allows all of us to better serve Veterans. As we just celebrated our nation's 249th birthday on July 4th, I was reminded of what we can accomplish as a nation and a people when we are unified with one purpose. On behalf of everyone at WDVA, thank you for being our partners, for joining together to honor our promise to Wisconsin's Veterans.

MEMORIAL DAY IN SURING



Members of Harold C. Anderson Suring Post 283 conducted a Memorial Day ceremony in Suring that featured a flag raising, the building of the battlefield cross, and reading of the names of the Veterans buried in local cemeteries. Pictured are the members of Post 283 raising the service flags. Commander Kevin Christensen and Vice Commander Zach School with the battlefield cross, which flanked the flags of the United States and American Legion.



POST 294 HARTLAND MEMORIAL DAY





ABOVE: Scouts assemble early in the morning to help Post 294 place flags at cemeteries. LEFT: Post firing in honor of our fallen heroes.

Virgil Smith Department Chaplain

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Greetings Legion family, I want to start by saying how proud I am to serve you once again as your Department Chaplain for the year 2025-2026, I am truly honored. So let me share with you this Psalm of Thanksgiving from Psalms 100:1-5:

Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth! Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before Him, singing with joy. Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we

are His. We are His People, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving; go into His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise His Name. For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and His faithfulness continues to each generation.

Give thanks to God for all your blessings all the time for God is good all the time. In closing when you pray, remember all our newly elected officers at all levels across our great state, I am sure they will appreciate your prayers. As they perform their duties throughout the coming year, I leave you with this blessing: May the Lord bless you and protect you, May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you, May the Lord show you His favor and give you His peace.

SUPERIOR POST 435 OBSERVES FLAG DAY



On Saturday, June 14, Post 435 held Flag Day Ceremonies at the Bong Veterans Center. The public was invited to the ceremony where they observed the correct way to dispose of a flag. Before the Flag Ceremony started, The Daughters of the American Revolution presented "Two Quilts of Honor" to two Veterans. They also distributed "Vietnam Veteran Era Pins" explaining to them that the pin was created for Veterans who had served in the military from 1955 to 1975, but did not see action in Vietnam. LEFT: Post 435 member Jeremy Grams with the Scout Members who participated in the ceremony displaying the different parts of the American flag. RIGHT: Post Members, Coast Guard Member and Scouts who participated in the Ceremony.

FOURTH HIGH SCHOOL TO HEROES BANQUET HELD IN CUMBERLAND



Left to Right Front Row: Kyleigh Mclemore (Cumberland), Cheyenne Beres (Ladysmith), Logan Lawrence (Bruce), Peter Montgomery (Rice Lake), Emmet Murphy (Hudson), Levi King (Luck), Amelia Sigsworth (Amery), Olivia Shetler (Siren), James Chamberlain (Chetek-W), Indy Wells (Unity), Aiden Golat (Cameron), Avery Allen (Luther Wright), Wyatt Nasseth (Cameron), Chief Master Sergeant, of U.S. Space Force Roger Towberman (Retired). Left to Right Back Row: Khalil Sowell (Winter), Alexander Stone (Bruce), Jack Owens (Cumberland), Adler Brosi (Bruce), Jacob Wozniak (Ladysmith), Theodore Small (Cumberland), Alayna Noonan (Osceola), Theron Barton (Spooner), Zachary Jahnke (Spooner), David Addison (Chetek-W), James Lawrence (Hayward), Torrence Jackson (Hayward).

The 4th annual High School to Heroes Banquet, was held on April 27 at the Cumberland American Legion. This is an evening to honor our local high school seniors who have committed to serve our Nation in the Armed Forces.

The dinner was hosted by the Cumberland American Legion Post 98 in Cumberland. There were 31 students from 18 different schools and 11 recruiters from the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force, represented at the banquet.

The highlight of the evening was guest speaker, Chief Master Sergeant Roger Towberman, who recently retired from the U.S. Space Force, and was the personal advisor to the Commander of Space Force and the Secretary of the Air Force. Mr. Towberman is a 1986 Cumberland High School graduate. Thank you to all the honorees for volunteering to serve our country.

BUGLER NETS AMERICANISM AWARD

American GI Forum-WI awarded the "Commander's Eagle Award" for Community Service to bugler extraordinaire Bill Seamen. Bill's volunteer civic duty to honor all Veterans when asked to play "TAPS" is outstanding. He has done this touching music for decades and is deserving of this acknowledgement. Presenting the award to Bill is AGIF-WI Commander George Banda. Affiliation is Milwaukee David Valdes Post 529 American Legion.

Submitted by Ken Skare, Treasurer, AGIF-WI.





SUPERIOR POST 435 HOSTS BADGER BOYS STATE SPEAKER

Pictured left to right is Iso Fish, and Butch Liebaert, Superior Post 435 Commander, at the Bong Veterans Historical Center before the Post meeting. Iso, a junior from Superior Senior High School, is the student the Post sponsored to attend the Badger Boys State session this year. He attended the Post's July meeting and spoke about the friends he made and how he learned about how government works at the session. He thanked the Post for selecting him to go to the conference.

Julie Muhle Department Adjutant

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

A new year will slowly be upon us. It is time for everyone to think about what they want from the year. How many times have you gotten to the end of a year only to think about all the things you wanted to do but just didn't get around to it? I know it happens to me!

What is your resolution for this year going to be for the Wisconsin American Legion? I can give you some

suggestions.

- 1. Go see Camp American Legion!
- 2. Get involved. Whether it be with your post, county, district or the state, learn more about the Legion. How can you learn more about the Wisconsin American Legion?
- a. Attend the Standing Committee meetings. Most meet four times per year Spring, Convention, Fall and Midwinter. You can sit in on any of those meeting to learn what the committee is working on.
- b. Help the Legion College. We need instructors, Assistant Chancellors and Deans, Registrars, marketers, etc. We want to grow our resource pool!
- c. Bring a friend or mentor a new member to a meeting. The biggest reason members stop coming to meetings or don't renew is because no one talks to them. At all. Not at meetings. Not between meetings. Make that change starting at your post.
- d. Come to Department Convention or Midwinter. Midwinter is overflowing with training classes of all kinds! Your registration fee gets you in into all the training you can handle in a day. Department Convention is our business meeting where we have to go through the less interesting things. This year though, we added a Post Commander Course!



James Fialkowski Department Veterans

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

MISINFORMATION AND INFORMATION

Service Officer To My Legion Family, Greetings. I have just returned to the Service Office after attending the Department Convention. I had an enjoyable time talking to many Legion Family members. I was concerned over some of the conversations that I divined were centered around inaccurate information. My concern is that others may have received the same misinformation or be under an outdated belief. Below I will outline two of these misnomers and the correct information (as of today 7/21/2025).

More than one person asked how to proceed with a claim for their hearing issues now that you could claim tinnitus alone because the regulation has changed.

I informed them and others; the regulation change is on the registry for review and has yet to be implemented. This misunderstanding is due to the VA proposed change of how tinnitus will be evaluated. If this change happens, tinnitus may lose the 10% compensable rating. To take advantage of the current regulation, submit your intent to file or your claims before the rule possibly changes.

Another question was, is there somewhere I could get assistance getting another adaptive vehicle since I already used my once-in-a-lifetime benefit from the VA?

Directly from the VA website: You may be eligible for a second automobile allowance if either of these is true: You bought a vehicle with VA automobile allowance 30 years ago or more, or a natural disaster destroyed a vehicle you bought with VA automobile allowance.

If a natural disaster destroyed a vehicle you bought with VA automobile allowance, both of these must be true: It's not your fault your vehicle was destroyed, and your property insurance didn't already compensate you for the loss of your vehicle

Note: In January of 2033, ten years after the enactment of the bill making repetitive use available, eligible persons become entitled to an additional automobile allowance if ten years have elapsed since their most recent receipt of an automobile allowance and can be reused thereafter once every ten years.

And now for this article's "Little Known Benefits" – (1) 100% disabled Veterans may use the military space available travel system. For more information go to https://www.amc.af.mil/AMC-Travel-Site/AMC-Space-Available-Travel-Page/

(2) VA will provide or pay for nursing home care for Veterans who need nursing home care for a service-connected disability, or those who have a 70% or greater service-connected disability, or those with a rating of total disability based on individual unemployability.

Once again, I want to thank all of you for your loyal support of the service office and commitment in "Still Serving America". Semper Fidelis!



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

OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

Giving Wisconsin Veterans the pathway to quality of life

OUR VALUES

Honor and Stewardship

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION — VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Jim Klement Camp American Legion Director

Camp American Legion has depended on volunteers to help throughout the camp season. We have been lucky enough to have some great people and couples join our team. This article is going to highlight one of our very best, Jerry Satorius.

Jerry has been a volunteer at Camp American Legion for 15 years. Jerry stays throughout the whole camp season and is more than willing to help with anything that camp needs. Jerry is multitalented and can do just about anything. His specialty is maintenance and he knows the camp better than anyone. From electrical to plumbing, he is the one that can fix it. The camp office has a maintenance log and anything that needs to be fixed gets added to the list. Every morning Jerry checks the list and by the end of the day everything is fixed.

Jerry is also an avid fisherman. He is one of the best captains that Camp American Legion has ever had. He takes campers out and he always puts them on the fish. So many campers come back from our

guided fishing trip and compliment Jerry on not only his fishing skills but his lovable personality.

Jerry is the epitome of why Camp American Legion is so successful. His work ethic and calm demeanor has made Camp American Legion an enjoyable and safe place that our Wisconsin Veterans deserve.

As Jerry would say, "It's all part of the Northwoods experience."

"Camp American Legion, Serving Wisconsin Veterans for over 100 years"

Thank You,

Jim Klement, Camp Director 715-277-2510

Post 480 Winegar Makes Camp American Legion Donation



A donation from Winegar(Presque Isle, WI) Post 480 to Camp American Legion helping to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Camp American Legion. L-R: Lori Thomas Post 480, Jim Klement Camp American Legion, and Carl Schoenecker Post 480.

To learn more about the mission of Camp American Legion or to get involved with answering the call, visit wilegion.org or find us on Facebook.

BADGER YOUTH CAMP PROGRAM REACHES 104

On June 21, the Sons of The Amer- no one to talk with. Camp improves each line to deepen its meaning and and Legion members as we presented our program to 104 children.

We strongly believe in the Children & Youth pillar that states in part "to strengthen the family unit; extend support; extend support to sound organizations and facilities that provide services for children and youth."

The younger children can be confused over what parents are doing and come with anxiety and sometimes fear over their departure. Camp affords them an opportunity to meet other children their age to share their feelin a rural location, they often have

ican Legion were joined by Auxiliary their knowledge, creates friendships that can last years and gives them an opportunity to simply be children.

> Badger Youth Camp is run by the WI Army National Guard. It has been a blessing to the kids and us. Every child, no matter their branch of service, are all welcomed, no one is ever turned away.

> The program has evolved each year and continues to grow. We 'introduce" them to Betsy Ross and explain how today's American flag came into being. We then read and explain the Pledge of Allegiance.

Francis Scott Key, lawyer, author ings with peers. When a child lives and poet, wrote the words to the Star-Spangled Banner. We explain

understanding. We all stand and sing it.

Johnny Cash sang the song "That Old Ragged Flag". Joyce Buehl, past Wisconsin Auxiliary President, wrote it out and gifted it to me. A member speaks as if he were the flag. This tells of when "he" came down the street, people would stand, be silent, reverent and respectful. Today much of that has disappeared. People barely notice when Old Glory comes by. He goes on to explain the importance of acknowledging and respecting what our flag means to us.

TAPS is known to all of us. Few really know its origin. We tell the story of how TAPS and the Civil War battlefield set the stage for its creation.



We respectfully stand as it's played.

Our Veterans take the stage and invite the kids to ask questions. They get some great questions and some sensitive ones too. The Vets have taken each with a great attitude and done a superb job.

We explain how to properly dispose of the American Flag. Weather permitting, we use the fire pit and never be neglected or forgotten.



perform a true disposal.

Everyone taking part is blessed. It's a reminder of how sharing history, patriotism and experiences should

CASCADE POST 386 SCHOLARSHIPS



Cascade Post 386 presented two scholarships on Plymouth High School Senior scholarship awards night. Recipients are: Chase Hellmer (L) and Abigail Wiskerchen (R) each received a \$1,000 award, awards were presented by Mark Lau of Post 386.

WILTON POST 508 DONATION TO TOMAH VA



The Hanson-Stark-Leith-Paeth Wilton American Legion Post 508 donated \$800 to the Tomah VA Voluntary Services Department in support of the National Adaptive Sports Program. The donation enables Veterans to attend the National Program in events in the areas of Cycling, Archery, Golf, Pickleball, Air Rifle, Water Skiing, and Sled Hockey. Pictured is Wilton Post 508 Commander Daniel **Dutton, and Jennifer Conzemius Tomah Voluntary Services.**

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED AT WISCONSIN DELLS POST 187



Second District Commander, Charlie Young was present at the Wisconsin Dells Post 187 June meeting to perform our 2025-2026 officer elections. RIGHT to LEFT: Commander Mark Cobb, Vice-Commander Allen Olson, Adjutant/Service Officer Larry Randall, Finance Officer David Murray, Sergeant-at-Arms 1 Patrick Walsh, Membership Chairman Giles Svehlek, Chaplain Ed Sigmund and Sergeant-at-Arms 2 Robert Walker.

MATTOON MEMORIAL DAY

On May 26, Mattoon's John Owen American Legion Post 287 along with the Mattoon Veteran Kids lead the Mattoon Memorial Day Parade. Post 287 honored our Fallen Veterans, not only by creating floats depicting our Nation's history, but to have kids march with us dressed in costumes to honor fallen soldiers. We have done this since 2023.

While distributing flags in Woodlawn Cemetery, we read the gravestones of the Veterans. Post 287 researched and recorded the Veterans information to include their activities, draft cards, registrations and sacrifices. From information on the headstones, we found 21 Civil War Veterans' stories that told of missions they were part of, including being present at President Lincoln's assassination, being behind the southern borders as guerillas, surviving being held prisoner at Andersonville Confederate Prison, suffering of disabilities from missing limbs, to one hero having to survive a few years with a blown off jawbone. One Civil War soldier was only 13 years old. Two Spanish/American War soldiers' stones are dissolving with age. Four books were created from our research, we also created about 200 hand drawings of the Mattoon Veterans, which are displayed in the Mattoon Shepherd Watch Academy School.

We collected uniforms for the kids to wear. Many were surprised to find out their great-grandfathers were young soldiers back then. We have them wear the uniforms of



the period that their great-grandfathers served. Some soldiers were immigrants that took part in the war to gain their citizenship and land. Native Americans were recognized by their young descendants by marching in their native clothing. Some are dressed as women who filled in for the men in combat. The Mattoon Veteran Kids took part in our Woodlawn Cemetery ceremony.

After the ceremony, there was a community picnic given by the Mattoon Fire and Rescue. This year Post 287 distributed booklets showing photos of the Mattoon Veteran Kids and Post 287 that depict what Memorial Day really means, to Remember, honor and respect those that gave the ultimate sacrifice. At this year's picnic Post 287 gave \$1,000 donations to the Mattoon Fire and Rescue, the Shepherd Watch Academy, and the Shepherd Watch Food Pantry. The Mattoon

4th July Fireworks was given a donation of \$2,289.

Though Post 287 only has 25 members, we believe in and support our community. It is the Post's desire to have our own home building or a community room where our research can be displayed. In the meantime, we will continue to grow, help our community and record the history of Mattoon.



POST 214 CHILDREN AND YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS, ATHLETIC AWARDS





LEFT: Congratulations to the 2025 Darlington American Legion Children and Youth scholarship recipients presented by Post 214 Commander Ron Lumaye to Landon King, Ella Winslow and Breanna Nethery (not pictured). RIGHT: Congratulations to the Darlington High School 2025 American Legion Athletic Award recipients Maddox Goebel and Lylah Norgard who are shown with Darlington Post 214 Commander Ron Lumaye and Darlington High School Principal Mitch Austin.

Loki

LOKI'S CORNER

Time to get your membership renewed!



The 2026 Membership drive starts today Renew with your local Post Or online @ Mylegion.org

#LegionStrong
#BeTheOneWisconsin



YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

JOIN US AT WILEGION.ORG

Mission, Purpose, Relevance



Morris Sadicario
Department

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

I am honored to be the Department Historian for 2025-2026. This year's theme is "Family First." I look forward to presenting exciting ways to tell our Legion story. As the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Historian's Association and consultant to the Communications Committee, the historian can share ideas and skills to improve the message building on what was started at

the recently completed 106th Department Convention.

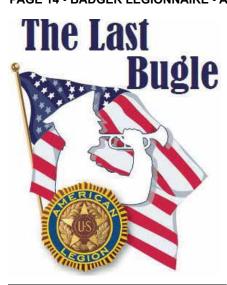
The Convention began with the uplifting event Testimonial Dinner, continuing the success of the "Be The One - Cruise for a Cause Wisconsin-25." Our Legion Riders received donations to be used for Legion Programs. These donations bolster local VA Hospitals, Battered Women and Children's Centers, Varied Children and Youth Programs, a School for Blind Children, Veterans Relief, Needy Families and many, many others.

Between the events, serious work was done. We appreciated Jay Bowen's visit. He hails from Post 209, Cold Springs, Colorado, and is a candidate for National Commander.

The Convention guest speakers were enlightening. John Armbruster, author of "Tailspin," presented the incredible story of S/SGT Eugene Moran who survived a 4-mile free-fall during WWII. He earned the nickname, "Old Gene, the Fighting Machine." Kevin Hermening's story of his harrowing time as an Iranian hostage kept us all on the edge of our seats. Jake Rademacher, who filmed "Brothers After the War," was on hand via remote and answered questions from the viewers. Finally, author Kelly Nelson presented the background and story of "Brownie the War Dog," one of the many pet dogs volunteered to serve in WWII.

At the final evening PCC/Legion Family event, we relaxed and partied to the raucous sounds from Daddy-D's 50s group!





WWI-World War I V-Vietnam G/L-Grenada/Lebanon P-Panama **GWOT-Global War on Terrorism**

WWII-World War II K-Korea

6 Stevens Point Conrad A. Favor 7 Rhinelander Donald J. Reed 9 Wisconsin Rapids Donald P. Weis Vernon M. Baierl 10 Wausau ٧ Ronald W. Dirks Ervin Ziegel ٧ John Zortman Richard H. Schroeder K Guv W. Hartl 11 Green Bay James W. Martin Richard Somerville ٧ William Strehlow 12 Spooner David A. Zimmer 14 Iola Lvle G. Mork 15 Juneau John Johll 21 Kenosha George H. Peter WWII Bruno E. Fani 26 Baraboo ٧ Ronald G. Schell Sr. Dale C. Plamann 29 Kewaunee K Daniel Eckert

31 Milwaukee

Gary A. Killian

Robert Cramer

Ronald Rodey

36 West Bend

38 Appleton

Dewaine Dvorak

Carl Sengstock

42 Platteville

John J. Vogt

45 Elkhorn

John T. Giese

James H. Moan

47 Portage

Herbert M. Justman

Nikolas J. Vandenberg

Nelson C. Necollins

Gerald M. Smudde Grant L. McMillin

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K | George J. Franks

32 Wilson

PG-Persian Gulf 48 Beloit Everett H. Raddatz 50 Hudson Warren C. Pagel WWII 52 La Crosse George K. Kleinertz WWII Gerald S. Kollars Roger B. Beckstrom 53 Eau Claire Arthur L. Hotvedt WWII Joe Buchholz Archie Eckwright V WWII Ralph E. Williams 54 Marshfield Kenneth F. Josephson K David Johnson 55 Hortonville Dale R. Graves Gregory L. Wieseler V 56 Fountain City ٧ James Killian 59 Stoughton Norman J. Gerber Robert L. Olson Basil S. Sadler Dan L. Hvam 60 Kimberly Robert Etka WWII Robert H. Wyngaard K Marvin M. Braun ٧ 64 Tony Keith A. Brundidge 69 Mayville Sigismund Semrau Roy A. Lichtenberg V Paul G. Lehman V 70 Oshkosh James E. Goodwin Rodney L. Kalata G/L 74 Oconto K Clyde J. Bridger 75 Fond du Lac Leslie Rupert Johnson V 77 Chippewa Falls William O. Bauer WWII Vernon P. Normand Daniel H. Pohl 80 New Richmond ٧ Rudolph Nalipinski 82 Port Washington

Gene H. Jentink ٧ 155 Westby 83 Sheboygan Reinhard L. Palm K Ralph G. Arenz 156 Eden 84 Monroe Todd F. Cronau PG 157 Horicon Donald L. Redden 87 Rice Lake 159 Cadott ٧ Willard E. Leaf Dennis R. Dixon ٧ James A. Greger 88 Manitowoc Larry T. Stroete 161 King 90 Ashland William Cook James H. Tomczak 91 Oconomowoc Roy A. Braatz V Peter Shuttleworth Peter R. Larson ٧ 93 Tomahawk 169 Amery Richard E. Collins WWII 94 Crandon Donald Kircher 95 Delavan Robert C. Harris K 98 Cumberland 181 Durand John F. Benjamin Jr. K Robert E. Davis 100 Sparta ٧ Darwin W. Kuehl Lavern A. Erickson ٧ Doug Robertson ٧ 102 Walworth WWII George F. Pries Daniel L. Boviall Larry Davis John R. McMullen David Egan 111 Somerset David L. Grimsrud V Steven R. Jungbauer James A. Spafford 115 Elroy Gregory G. Gnirk 116 Coon Valley James R. Onshus 117 Shawano 201 Tomah Lester D. Bondowski Κ 118 Thorp John B. Brandt 120 West Allis Thomas A. Smolko 121 River Falls Richard Bierstedt Joseph M. Helmueller ٧ Mark Skordahl 122 Phillips George R. Meives Stanley Stratil ٧ 124 Kiel John E. Hau Jerome Strouf 128 Chilton Theresa D. Spreeman V 132 Siren WWII Dair B. Stewart 141 New Glarus Gerald King Gerald Briscoe 216 Lodi 146 Beaver Dam Paul Munz ٧ Glen A. Stockman 148 Bloomington John W. Budworth WWII 151 Madison Marvin F. Meissen William B. Payne K 220 Soldiers Grove ٧ Roger W. Ballweg Farl Cech

152 Menasha

K Lee R. Neerhof

Sherman V. Erlandson K Ronald Paulsrud James A. Wilhelms ٧ ٧ Gerald A. Hartwig Larry W. Buttke K WWII Edsel A. Evjen 160 Brooklyn Bruce A. Rhutasel ٧ WWII Adrian L. Dickson 164 Jefferson Donald W. Hoffman WWII 165 Two Rivers Leonide Lemaster Bradley G. Grasser PG 170 Mineral Point Francis J. Smith 173 Whitewater Richard D. Kilpin PG David Alan Anderson 182 Park Falls K Ronald J. Ernst Robert I. Woelfel K 185 Grantsburg ٧ Orren C. Granquist 188 East Troy ٧ George A. Stahl 189 Watertown ٧ Lee J. Holtgrieve Robert J. Hackbarth ٧ Glen F. Schuett 192 New Berlin Marlyn M. Tibbetts WWII 197 Brodhead Thomas D. Moczynski 199 Reedsville Kenneth E. Brochtrup K Lamont Burkhalter Harold K. Fowler K 202 Chaseburg ٧ Ronald Proksch 204 Ellsworth ٧ Eldon S. Huber Donald Kreve Κ Delores V. Lund K 205 Janesville Dean Howarth 209 Orfordville Stanley R. Dybevik Κ 210 Waupun Lester E. Buchholz ٧ 211 Florence K Robert Whaley Richard Mevers K 214 Darlington ٧ Dwight J. Frick ٧ ٧ Larry M. McKenna ٧ 217 Bonduel 310 Racine Donald L. Voorhees 218 Hayward Mike J. Fay Barry L. Blakeborough K Claude L. Bernhard Jr.

227 Spring Valley Donald P. Stevens 237 Footville V April L. Roennenburg John C. Kastor 238 Greenwood Bernard Kitzhaber WWII 244 Westfield James C. Golisch ٧ 245 Cross Plains Billy E. Mav Steven A. Dodge 253 Spring Green Ralph M. Haas 257 Ridgeway Donald Murphy 258 Little Chute Charles J. Bongers 262 Luxemburg Harlin J. Mercier Steven K. Gilray PG Kenneth J. Boucher 263 New London Jack Algiers 271 Povnette John M. Bisbee Cecil E. Boyd Κ 277 Necedah V Margaret Marchetti 284 Holmen Tony Knutson Emil E. Kark PG Harold Smith Harry G. Helfrich 288 Cedarburg William W. Hanson WWII Alvin L. Reimer Glenn F. Dohrmann Jerry Hutchison Wayne Zeitler V Skip Klahorst ٧ 291 Augusta Archie J. Shona 293 Silver Lake Jon R. Boston Gerald Fitzgibbon 294 Hartland Ronald Rupich Dale Demeuse 295 Bloomer Dean G. Rosenbrook Thomas H. Valley 296 Brookfield David R. Gramins 300 Cecil Peter Nygaard Jerry Druckrey V 301 Woodville Allen R. Delander Κ 302 Oconto Falls Alan I. Christopherson Sr. 303 Winter Karol L. Alonso Christine R. Clough G/L Rudolph Anderson WWII 305 Johnson Creek ٧ Robert L. Burns 306 Green Lake ٧ Grant W. Reichard

V

V

313 Black Earth Joseph I. Ripp

326 Boyd

V | Martin Seichter

WWII

223 Hillsboro

V Donald Benish

329 Briggsville Roy S. Demge 336 Onalaska Clarence E. Rochester K Robert E. Suter Rudolph Bogusz Irving E. Wittenberg James Kirkpatrick PG 337 Pulaski Norbert Bluma Patrick McKeefry 347 Lomira Leon E. Brasch 348 DeForest Dennis J. Oloughlin 350 Reedsburg Clarence O. Lee 357 Bay City Bruce L. Powers 360 Waunakee Gordon R Faust James R. Schmitz Douglas L. Anderson James Pingel PG Robert L. Fleiner 363 Denmark Francis J. Rabas 364 Winneconne Lawrence Hall 372 Forestville Clifford Karnitz 377 Elcho Charles Huebschen 379 Birchwood Edward A. Leader Jr.WWII Russell A. Kemp James A. Sirinek 384 Kewaskum WWII James D. Reigle 390 Gresham John M. Zahringer Walter E. Gross James T. Flauger 393 Edgar PG Randy Batterton 395 Kingston Richard D. Walburg 398 Plain Eugene Schmid 401 Cambria Samuel Kok 405 Dousman K Robert B. Latzel 412 Belgium Thomas P. Watry Frank Moss Dean Voskuil 415 Milwaukee Will G. Tingue **Everett Rosche** WWII 416 Greendale Arthur R. Koel

Patrick J. Maher Monte R. Lunde Louis R. Schoerning James L. McCov 426 Muskego Earl J. Curran WWII Ralph L. Turczynski Dennis G. Michalowski V 427 Greenfield Joseph Sazama 433 Barneveld Anton S. Arneson Jr.WWII Jon M. Larson 435 Superior Erling E. Naeyaert 436 Wrightstown Thomas A. Pieper Thomas Vanthiel 440 Clinton Roger K. Longman 448 Milwaukee Lisa Phillips PG 449 Brookfield Myles G. Bruch Floyd M. Leonard James S. Shire Tony J. Bertino WWII Dennis C. Linnell Randall L. Wizner 452 Brantwood Stan Carlson 454 Fond du Lac Roger J. Birschbach Roger W. Thome William Casper 457 Mequon John A. Brodie 458 Wauzeka Donald Ray 459 Eleva Richard Pederson 460 Belleville Wallace Bolev Bruce L. Kiesling 468 Mosinee Gunars Z. Virsnieks 470 Saukville Joseph Tippy Ray C. Flaherty 474 Milwaukee L.C. Gaines Jr. 476 Crivitz John K. Hensley Roger Wytkewicz 477 Saint Nazianz James Punke Wayne E. Schuette 479 Milwaukee Nearlin Carter Jr. 481 Waunakee Philip J. Schlimgen

483 Allenton William R. Montag V ٧ 486 Jackson K Llovd Derge K 491 Cazenovia WWII John Kaderavek 492 Rothschild Robert H. Coleman 494 Caledonia Ron Guckenberger K Paul M. Harvey Dale R. Mever 495 Sussex Κ George F. Laukant 496 Sherwood ٧ ٧ Allan A. Mader 499 Gordon ٧ James L. Brannon ٧ 501 Madison WWII James W. Divall Kenneth C. Brunner Clark Amundsen V 509 Rosholt Gregory A. Esker ٧ Κ 510 Hollandale K Ronald F. Hanson ٧ Κ 517 Dorchester ٧ Robert J. Morrow ٧ 521 Fox Lake ٧ Merlin J. Tolsma Eugene M. Mich WWII ٧ 522 Hubertus PG William J. Hartzel Sr. 531 Port Wing Keith I. Larson V 537 Milwaukee Κ Richard Goldmann ٧ 539 Green Bay K Κ Florence Parker 541 Northfield K Frank A. Scholze 543 Plover Κ Κ Morris M. Piotrowski 546 Racine Paul I Cobb ٧ ٧ 547 Withee Donald J. Cwikla K Ed Henry V 550 Mondovi Κ Lerov V. Rosman ٧ K 551 Lancaster Gerald Krohn Κ ٧ 552 Somers Larry J. Zirbel Κ V 2930 Portage Κ David R. Ueke ٧ ٧ Gordon B. Spaete David W. Shelton V Robert J. Jenkins ٧ Dennis Leatherman ٧ Jack Wiczynski Κ George J. Franks Κ Marvin Henke



THANK YOU VETERANS

WISCONSIN

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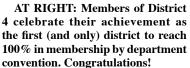
2025 ALA-WISCONSIN CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS





FAR LEFT: President Becky Mueller with special guest Honored PDP Joan Chwala (2011-2012) and Past Presidents Parley Chairman Joanie Dickerson.

AT LEFT: President Becky Mueller, with Unit Member of the Year Stephanie Benson of Chippewa Falls Unit 77, and Leadership Chairman Teresa Isensee.



FAR RIGHT: President Becky Mueller with ALA Badger Girls State Governor Kaliope Morgan who was sponsored by Oak Creek Unit 434, ALABGS Executive Director Joanie Dickerson, and ALABGS Chairman Danyelle Thompson.









FAR LEFT: Past Presidents Parley Chairman Joanie Dickerson presented awards for Mentor of the Year to Char Kiesling, Teresa Isensee, and Joyce Endres (not pictured).

AT LEFT: Senior Vice President Sue Hembrook with Honorary Junior President Lindsay Stiff of Stevens Point Unit 6, Junior Activities Chairman Dr. Christine Johnsen, and Junior Activities Vice Chair Morgan Johnsen.

AT RIGHT: Senior Vice President Sue Hembrook with Neenah Unit 33 members Vicki Hanson & Claire Burr who received an award for Junior Unit of the Year from Junior Activities Chairman Dr. Christine Johnsen and Junior Activities Vice Chair Morgan Johnsen.

FAR RIGHT: President Becky with Little Miss Poppy Avery Smith of Oak Creek Unit 434 and Poppy Chairman Deanna Farley.







2025-2026 Department Officers (l-r): Sergeant-at-Arms Sue Turowski, Alternate NEC Becky Mueller, 2nd VP Betty Stone, Historian Dr. Christine Johnsen, Sr VP Amy Luft, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bonnie Dorniak, Department President Sue Hembrook, 1st VP Christina Petranovich, NEC Maggie Geiger, Asst Sergeant-at-Arms Linda Coppock, Chaplain Sandy Mack.



2025-2026 District Presidents: Front row: Pat Ehleiter (D4), Barb McDaniel (D12), Sue Keyzers (D9), Teresa Steinke (D10), Jesse Elmhorst (D7), Kay Grosskopf (D8); Back row: Kathy Olson (D2), Shelley Drager (D3), Linda Bartell (D5), Theresa Schindler (D11), Crystal Shaw (D1), and Diane Steinert (D6).

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY SPRING SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS FOR 2025

Thank you to everyone who supported The American Legion Auxiliary Spring Sweepstakes that was in the February issue of this newspaper. The fundraiser was a great success! Congratulations to all the lucky winners!

\$500 AWARDS (6 Winners): James Bolgrien, Portage Loren Hursh, Schofield John Lepinski, Eden Mike Maroszek, Pulaski Ronald Riehl, Menasha William Ziemer, Shawano

\$400 AWARDS (8 Winners):
Roland Brosel, Menomonee Falls
Priscilla Castellano, Milltown
Bruce Fischer, Tomah
Aaron Krebsbach, La Crosse
Charles Larson, DeForest
Bobby Loney, Viroqua
Bill Riemer, Birchwood
Gerald Rosenfield, Janesville

\$300 AWARDS (16 Winners) Harold Ehlo, La Crosse Martin Erickson, Appleton Clyde Gerth, Watertown Delmer Giessel, Kaukauna Paul Gutbrod, Lannon Lee Jungen, Appleton Roger Kage, Mosinee Donna Kraehnke, Burlington Kay Liebergen, Greenleaf Joan Quarzenski, Crivitz Paul Radetski, Green Bay John Schlice, Stevens Point Judy Schulz, Markesan Allan Seubert, Wausau Glen Warnke, Hudson Walter Worzalla, Wisconsin Rapids

\$200 AWARDS (20 Winners): Richard Anderson, Mosinee Sandra Bosley, Marshfield Bradley Bursch, Osceola ulianne Carriveau, Marathon Lamont Dechant, Tomah Clyde Gerth, Watertown David Gleason, New Richmond Jeremy Hendricks, Kaukauna Jeffrey Hoeft, Spooner Col James Hove, Kissimmee Peggy Johnson, Fall Creek Carol Kalscheur, Waunakee Wayne Klimek, Algoma Arthur Kotila, Rhinelander George Kroncke, Madison John Martin, Merrill Brian Moravec, Shiocton David Robel, Fredonia William Rotta, Hartford Albert Wilkinson, Waukesha

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Sandy Mack Department Chaplain/Music Chairman smack0555@gmail.com 262-388-9816

What does the word *offering*, mean to you? To me, it is an act of gratitude, contribution, loyalty, love for God and each other.

2 Corinthians 9:7, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." This emphasizes the importance of giving from the heart and with a willing spirit. This highlights that God appreciates those who give joyfully rather than out of obligation. To me, this is why I am here, to give offerings to our Veterans, military, and their families from the heart.

Other topics to focus on are stress, trying to do too much in a short amount of time, challenges you face in your daily work, and anger with others who are not up to your expectations. This is something we all might deal with at one time or another. My findings are that I count to ten, take deep breaths, take a walk, and avoid further confrontations. Sometimes we need to work smarter, not harder, and help others accomplish what we may have already done in a positive manner.

Always remember, we are all members of this great organization working for the good of the Auxiliary, serving our Veterans, military – both at home and abroad, and their families. If you ever need to talk and have someone listen, always remember I am here, and you can always reach out. God is the silent listener in every conversation and hears your prayers wherever you may be.

As I am on this new journey as your Department Chaplain/Music Chairman, I want to reach out to each and every one of you to send me your prayers and music. I will be putting together a book for President Sue Hembrook.

Remember the sayings, "do onto others as you would want done to you" and "give and it will be given to you." Together, we can make a difference! God Bless America.

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

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

Congratulations to Becky Mueller on a successful year as Department President. President Becky presented ten Heart of the ALA awards at the 104th ALA Department Convention in Green Bay. Congratulations to all the award recipients!

Other convention highlights included reports from department program chairs; a tribute to Honored PDP Joan Chwala (2011-2012); recognition of Unit Member of the Year Stephanie Benson of Chippewa Falls, ALA Badger Girls State Governor Kaliope Morgan, and the ALA's hospital representatives and deputies; introduction of candidate for National Commander Jay

Bowen; election of new department officers; and a parade of all 100% unit members! If you weren't there, you missed a great time!

A special thanks goes out to Bethany Fredericks for attempting to maintain my sanity, SuAnn Pagel-Rast for her expertise in creating the PowerPoint slide show for all the program reports, and Dany Thompson for providing awesome music to enhance the weekend activities. Convention would not have been successful without all their help.

Past Department President Becky's year concluded with the installation of 2025-2026 Department President Sue Hembrook, the 2025-2026 department officers and district presidents.

Newly elected Department President Sue Hembrook's theme for the upcoming year is "Honor our Country, Support our Veterans." Her special project this year is Camp American Legion, in honor of their recent 100-year anniversary.

Although we are still collecting dues for the 2025 membership year, 2026 membership cards and rosters have been sent to all the units. Any unit that has not received their membership packet should contact Andrea Stoltz at department headquarters immediately.

2026 renewal notices will be mailed from the national organization in mid-September, but you don't have to wait to renew your dues. To expedite processing, you may pay your dues online (www.ALAforVeterans.org) or call the national organization during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Central Time). Members who pay for multiple people can take care of everyone's dues with one simple phone call to 317-569-4570! New members for 2026 can be processed after September 1.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Dr. Christine Johnsen Department Chairman cmj102@aol.com 715-203-2015

Morgan Johnsen Department Vice Chairman

Juniors are the foundation upon which we will build the future of The American Legion Auxiliary. To highlight the importance of these valuable members of The American Legion Family, a membership award specific to recruiting Junior members has been created. Recruit three new Junior members to earn the Junior Ranger Award! As planning begins for the 2025-2026 administrative year, please make every effort to actively invite our youngest members to participate in and support all American Legion Family programs and activities.

In the spirit to *Honor our Country, Support our Veterans*, plans are in the works for several exciting Junior events! As Junior Eagles of the Central Division, we are going to soar across the state for our conferences. SAVE THE DATE for the Department of Wisconsin Junior Fall Conference, which will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove, 21425 Spring Street, Union Grove, WI. A return to Camp American Legion for another fabulous weekend is planned for spring, along with fundraising activities throughout the year in support of Camp American Legion. More information will be available in upcoming Unit Mailings and on the Department website (www.amlegionauxwi.org> Programs > Junior Activities).

The Junior Activities Program Engagement Plan for 2025-26 will be available on the Department website in September. Please reach out to me by phone or email if you have any questions, or great ideas, about Junior activities. It's going to be a FANTASTIC year!

UNIT 340 HONORS GRADUATES



Members of Berlin Unit 340 worked with the Berlin High School principal and secretary to purchase red, white and blue-colored honor cords for students of the Class of 2025 who have committed to serving in the military following graduation. The students wore these cords and were recognized during commencement, thus beginning a new annual graduation tradition in Berlin.

POW/MIAs: IN REMEMBRANCE

Hammond Unit 432 recently set up a permanent display in the Veterans Wing at the Hammond Nursing Home, where approximately 17 Veterans reside, to honor POWs and MIAs. Items are set on a small round table representing the frailty of one prisoner. The white tablecloth represents the purity of their intent, the red rose is for bloodshed, the lemon reminds us of their bitter fate, the inverted glass signifies that they cannot join us, the empty chair that they are not present, and the candle is the



light of hope. Thank you to Auxiliary President Judy Jones and Treasurer Jennifer Hawkins for gathering supplies and setting up this meaningful display.

POPPY DISTRIBUTION





2025 Poppy distributions were successful for another year! AT LEFT: Green Bay Sullivan-Wallen Post 11 Legion Family members (l-r): Shirley Willis (ALA), Keith Goodman (SAL), Cathy Landry (TAL/ALA). **RIGHT: Ross-Wilcox** Unit 79 members Nan Southey and Sandy Brook at the **Burlington Farmers** Market.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Bob Shappell Department Chairman bobshap@aol.com 414-899-4067

The main purposes of the ALA National Security Program are to: 1) raise awareness of POW/MIAs and the ongoing efforts to bring closure to their families, 2) support the Legion's priorities for a strong national defense, 3) support military families in and around our communities, and 4) advocate and support initiatives to improve military quality of life for servicemembers and their families.

Military life has always been filled with uncertainties, apprehension, and in some cases, fear of the future. World situations today are adding to those uncertainties for members and their families. We need to prepare ourselves and our Unit resources to offer kindness, understanding, and tangible help to our local military families.

How do we know who they are? Now is



the time to get active and find them. Use current or recent military members or family members in your Post/Unit family to identify and contact them, letting them know we are there if and when they need us. November is National Veterans and Military Family Appreciation month. Let's set a goal to identify and contact all those military families in our community and surrounding areas by November, and host a gathering to remind them how much we care about

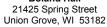
them and how prepared we are to provide support for them when needed.

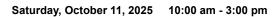
Finally, kick off your National Security program by publicizing and talking about POW/MIA Day on September 19 (the third Friday each September). Reach out to your community and all Veterans. Have the mayor recognize the day locally. Hold a small ceremony at your facility or a community hall. Do something – big or small. Remember them!



DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN FALL JUNIOR CONFERENCE

Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove Boland Hall 21425 Spring Street





Your Junior Fall Conference will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove, Boland Hall. This will include a business meeting, lunch, an activity with residents, and several fun activities for all ages!

Registration, including lunch, is \$10, and Junior T-shirts can be ordered for \$10 each. Two weeks before the event, additional information will be sent to registrants by email and will be available on the ALA Wisconsin website at www.amlegionauxwi.org/junioractivities.

If you have any questions, please call or text Christine Johnsen at 715-203-2015, or email at $\underline{\text{cmj102@aol.com}}$.

2025 JUNIOR AUXILIARY FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION Registration must be received by September 15, 2025

Form submitted by (please print clearly):

Name.						DISTRICT# UTIL#		
Phone #:			Em	nail:				
NAME / UNIT #	Grade	First time attendee? (Yes/No)	Junior member	Senior member	Registration & Lunch \$10	Youth Size S, M, L, XL \$10	Adult Size S, M, L, 2XL, 3XL \$10	Total per person
Totals					\$	\$	\$	\$

Total Amount Enclosed \$

Please send registration form with check payable to American Legion Auxiliary to: Christine Johnsen, 159991 Granite Rd., Wausau, WI 54403

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS



National President Trish Ward (front row with the blue shirt).

Sue Keyzers 2024-2025 Department Chair

Being the Distinguished Guests Chairman for the Department of Wisconsin was a wonderful experience. My first official duty was when Central Division National Vice President Rosemarie Hauck came to Wisconsin in October. We took Rosemarie to the Poppy Shop for a tour of the War Memorial Center, then to Oak Creek Post 434 for a traditional Wisconsin fish fry. On Saturday we attended the ALA In The Know program in Cedarburg. That evening, we went to the Milwaukee airport to greet Veterans returning from a Stars and Stripes Honor Flight. There were two Honor Flights that day. For one flight, Rosemarie and President Becky Mueller were able to go to the gate and watch as the Veterans got off of the plane to receive poppies from Little Miss Poppy.

My second duty was when National President

My second duty was when National President Trish Ward came to Wisconsin in June to visit ALA Badger Girls State. Trish's plane was delayed so she did not arrive until about 9:30 on Sunday morning. After checking into her dorm room at UW-Oshkosh and eating lunch, I gave her a tour of the campus. Trish visited ALABGS when she was the Central División National Vice President, so she was familiar with some of the buildings. After that, we went to the first General Assembly and visited some of the City and Party meetings that were in progress. After dinner and more meetings, we attended the evening's General Assembly where Trish gave an outstanding



Central Division National Vice President Rosemarie Hauck

talk about being kind to one another and the delegates were very impressed. Early Monday morning (4:00 am!), Becky and I took Trish to the airport and she was off to Idaho. Her stay in Wisconsin was less than 24 hours, but Trish packed a lot into that short time!

While my duties as District President precluded me from serving as the Distinguished Guests Chairman at the Department Convention, I thank President Becky for the honor of being her Distinguished Guests Chairman for 2024-2025.



70-YEAR MEMBERSHIP PIN AT UNIT 366

Barb Hess, President of Princeton American Legion Auxiliary Unit 366 presented Mary Swed with her 70-year membership pin in June.

Department of Wisconsin 2025 State Convention Citations

President's Award for Excellence - Becky Mueller, Department President

10 – awarded to Ozaukee County Council, District 2; Plymouth Unit 243, District 2; DeForest Unit 348, District 3; Lone Rock Unit 383; District 3; Montello Unit 351, District 6; Mauston Unit 81, District 7; Seymour Unit 106, District 9; Cumberland Unit 98, District 10; Independence Unit 186, District 10; Grantsburg Unit 185, District 12.

Americanism – Diane Burkhalter, Department Chairman

4 - Certificates of Recognition - awarded to Neenah Unit 33, District 6; Marathon Unit 469, District 8; Independence Unit 186, District 10; Grantsburg Unit 185, District 12.

Chaplain - Donna Jensen, Department Chaplain

1 - Certificate of Recognition - awarded to Grantsburg Unit 185, District 12.

Children & Youth - Joyce Endres, Department Chairman

- 5 Certificates of Recognition awarded to Port Washington Unit 82, District 2; Neenah Unit 33, District 6; Humbird Unit 320; District 7; River Falls Unit 121, District 10; Grantsburg Unit 185, District 12.
- 4 Youth Hero Award Certificates Nolan Wingert sponsored by Pewaukee Unit 71, District 1; Acie Holland sponsored by Union Grove Unit 171, District 1; Marisa Obst, sponsored by West Bend Unit 36, District 2; Owen Beierman sponsored by River Falls Unit 121, District 10.

Community Service - Sandy Mack, Department Chairman

3 - Certificates of Recognition - awarded to Hartland Unit 294, District 1; Mukwonago Unit 375, District 1; Grafton Unit 355. District 2.

Education/M. Louise Wilson Loan Fund - Diane Weggen, Department Chairman

16 - Certificates of Recognition - awarded to Mukwonago Unit 375, District 1; Plymouth Unit 243, District 2; Richland Center Unit 13, District 3; Stoughton Unit 59, District 3; Mount Hope Unit 229, District 3; Lone Rock Unit 383, District 3; Neenah Unit 33, District 6; St. Cloud Unit 478, District 6; Loyal Unit 175, District 7; New London Unit 263, District 8; Marathon Unit 469, District 8; Pembine Unit 461, District 9; Fall Creek Unit 376, District 10; Park Falls Unit 182, District 11; Birchwood Unit 379, District 12; & District 10.

Junior Activities - Christine Johnsen, Department Chairman

1 - Junior Unit of the Year - awarded to Neenah Unit 33, District 6.

Leadership - Teresa Isensee, Department Chairman

1 – Unit Member of the Year – awarded to Stephanie Benson of Chippewa Falls Unit 77, District 10.

Membership - Amy Luft, Department Chairman

2 - Certificates of Recognition - awarded to District 3 & District 4.

National Security – Karen Runk, Department Chairman
4 – Certificates of Recognition – awarded to Plymouth Unit 243, District 2; Marathon Unit 469, District 8; Appleton Unit 38, District 9; Somerset Unit 111, District 10.

Past Presidents Parley - Joanie Dickerson, Department Chairman

3 - Mentors of the Year - awarded to Joyce Endres of Waunakee Unit 360, District 3; Char Kiesling of Neenah Unit 33, District 6; and Teresa Isensee of Boyd Unit 326, District 10.

- Poppy Deanna Farley, Department Chairman
 7 Poppy Poster Awards awarded to Julia Riihinen, District 7 (Class I); Jessa Reimer, District 9 (Class II); Alana Schmidt, District 9 (Class III); Natalie Brickner, District 2 (Class IV); Serena Love, District 9 (Class V); Frankie Hoeffeller, District 9 (Class VI); Payton Wojcik, District 9 (Class VII).
- 1 Little Miss Poppy awarded to Avery Smith, District 4.

Public Relations - Bob Shappell, Department Chairman

1 – Certificate of Recognition – awarded to Plymouth Unit 243, District 2.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation - Bonnie Jakubczyk, Department Chairman

1 - Certificate of Recognition - awarded to Grafton Unit 355, District 2.

District Award - Barb McDaniel, 12th District President

3 – Certificates of Recognition – awarded to Spooner Unit 12; Grantsburg Unit 185; Cable Unit 487.



GOOD DEED AWARD: HOLLY HARGRAVE

Cumberland Unit 98 President Toniann Knutson presented a Good Deed Award to Holly Hargrave. Holly sold her 4-H lamb and donated the proceeds to another 4-H member who was having heart transplant surgery. The lamb sold four times at the Barron County Fair auction, raising over \$27,000 for the Lexi Anderson heart transplant fund.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY **DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN 2024-2025 STATISTICS**

Statistics are current as of May 31, 2025 and are based on the annual year-end reports from 237 of Wisconsin's 347 Units.

Wisconsin has almost 15,000 members – grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, daughters, and granddaughters of Veterans.

OUR SERVICE FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY

- * Number of Veterans/Military assisted: 59,476
- * Hours volunteered: 253,737
- * Dollars spent: \$550,451
- * Dollar value of in-kind donations: \$74,851
- * Number of poppies purchased for distribution in WI: 220,890
- * Number of poppies purchased by other states: 39,500
- * Poppy dollars raised to support veterans: \$368,520
- * Number of Veterans who made poppies: 17

OUR SERVICE FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

* Number of military families served: 8,446

* Hours volunteered: 53,864 * Dollars spent: \$86,884

OUR SERVICE FOR CHILDREN/YOUTH

* Number of children & youth served: 20,601

* Hours volunteered for Legion Family youth activities: 14,751

* Dollars spent on children & youth: \$54,651

OUR SERVICE THRU ALA BADGER GIRLS STATE

* Hours volunteered: 10,230 * Dollars spent: \$283,319

* Number of ALA Badger Girls State delegates in 2024: 504

SCHOLARSHIPS

* Number of scholarships awarded: 642

* Dollar amount of local scholarships: \$92,900

* Dollar amount of Department scholarships: \$24,000

OUR SERVICE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

* Hours volunteered: 204,757

* Dollars spent: \$363,721

To learn more about The American Legion Auxiliary, visit www.ALAforVeterans.org or www.amlegionauxwi.org

ALA BADGER GIRLS STATE

Danyelle Thompson Department Chair alabgs.chairman@gmail.com 920-379-6489

In June of 2025, ALA Badger Girls State celebrated it's 80th session at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Fifty-eight (58) counselors and just under 500 delegates joined together to create the 51st State of Badger. Overall, it was a very successful week!

This year, due to the decommissioning of Gruenhagen Conference Center, the program was moved to new residence halls. Because of this, the schedule was changed significantly which made a positive impact. The delegates were given more rest and work time, and travel across campus was reduced.

The delegates became citizens on Sunday, ran for the majority of offices on Monday and Tuesday, and spent the rest of the week passing legislation and debating important issues. On Wednesday, the Oshkosh Legion Post demonstrated a flag disposal ceremony, and Department Commander Jim Johnson helped President Becky hand out blue star banners to delegates who have immediate family members serving in the military.

On Thursday, the culmination of the program was the Inauguration, and many state officials joined the delegates in this celebration - including Governor Tony Evers, Justice Jill Karofsky, Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr Jill Underly, Treasurer John Leiber, and Secretary of State Sarah Godlewski. They were generous with their time and each spoke to the delegates about their role in public service.

On Friday, the program ended with a State Fair! Not only did each city and county have a display to demonstrate everything they did throughout the week, but many of the citizens showed off their skills in the annual Talent Show. It was a fun and productive week that could not have been possible without the support of The American Legion Auxiliary units and the 58 volunteers who gave up time and vacation to make sure the program was a success.

ALABGS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: LEAH REYNOLDS

Leah Reynolds is an American Legion Auxiliary member with Osseo Unit 324 as well as an ALA Badger Girls State alumna from the 2019 ALABGS session. She graduated from Minnesota State University-Mankato in 2024 with a Bachelor's Degree in Recreation, Parks & Leisure Services, Therapeutic Recreation and minored in Military Science with the Maverick Battalion Army ROTC program.

On June 25, 2025, Leah graduated from EBOLC-Engineer Basic Officer Leader Course Class 05-25 after five months in training with Bravo Company 554th Engineer Battalion in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Leah is currently a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Reserves with the 327th Vertical Construction Company in Onalaska, Wisconsin. She lives in Chippewa Falls and works as an Activities Therapist at Mayo Clinic in Eau Claire.



MEMBERSHIP

Our new membership year is upon us, and it is time to go camping! Yes, you read that right! Department President Sue's theme is "Honor our Country, Support our Veterans" and her special project is Camp American Legion. Our great country will be celebrating it's 250th Birthday on July 4, 2026, so together with our nation's birthday and President Sue's special project, Wisconsin Membership will be highlighting National Parks!

Each district randomly selected a National Park for the 2025-2026 year:

- District 1 Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway
- District 2 Denali National Park and Preserve
- District 3 Everglades National Park
- District 4 Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
- District 5 Badlands National Park
- District 6 Grand Canyon National Park
- District 7 Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
- District 8 Yosemite National Park
- District 9 Glacier National Park
- District 10 Yellowstone National Park
- District 11 Redwood National Park
- District 12 Great Smoky Mountains National Park

We are excited to see how each district incorporates their park with their membership efforts! The Wisconsin Membership Team is here to assist with all your membership efforts so please reach out!

We also have some great incentives to help us reach our goals (1% over 2024 membership as of 12/31/2024). NOTE: 2025-2026 Unit Officer form must be submitted and the listed officers must be paid to qualify for any awards.

- AWARDS:
 "PARK RANGER" Recruit 1 Award: Members who recruit a new member or rejoin an expired member for 2026
- will receive a Membership pin.
 "NAVIGATION/COMPASS" Award: Units that reach the membership percentage by the goal date will be placed in a random drawing to win \$100.
 - 75% September 15
 - 85% October 15
 - 95% November 15
 - 100% December 15
- "PARK PASS" AWARD: Units reaching 100% by 12/31/25 will receive two (2) entries – by 1/31/26, one (1) entry. One lucky unit will win an all-access Department Convention Pass which includes:
 - Two (2) unit members' paid convention registrations
 - Hotel accommodation (one room for two nights)
 - Unit recognition at convention

- Two (2) free passes to the Commander's Party
- "JUNIOR RANGER" AWARD (NEW this year!): Recruit three (3) NEW junior members and receive a special award from department!

As always, memberships can be easily renewed online at My Auxiliary Member Portal located on the national website (www.ALAfor Veterans.org) or call National Headquarters at 317-569-4570.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP TEAM

Christina Petranovich

Chairman christina.petranovich@yahoo.com 715-512-0628

Diane Burkhalter

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Andrea Stoltz

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AEF: THANK YOU!

Bonnie Dorniak Department HO deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org

Past Department President Becky Mueller selected the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) as her special project last year. Thanks to the generosity of our members, Wisconsin donated \$36,950.86 to the national AEF program -

But what is AEF? AEF is a national grant initiative available to eligible ALA members who have endured a significant financial setback because of a natural disaster or other personal crisis. Grants are awarded up to \$3,000. Funding for AEF grants comes from members helping members throughout the United States.

AEF applicants must be ALA members who or after the three-week time limit. have maintained annual ALA membership for three consecutive years.

Disaster Grants must be received within three months of the disaster and are used to provide emergency assistance when the member's primary residence has been devastated by disaster. Applications require photos as documentation or receipts for reimbursable expenses for temporary shelter, temporary structure repairs, purchase of alternative power sources, or groceries needed due to being displaced. Receipts dated the day of the disaster or up to three weeks after the disaster may be considered. Assistance will not be granted for damages to a secondary or seasonal residence or expenses that occurred before the disaster

Hardship Grants will consider funding only for overdue expenses related to primary residence, basic household utility expenses, and/or loss of income due to medical and/or employment reasons within the last six months. Requests for payment of medical-related expenses, taxes, general loans, insurances, credit cards, cellular/ TV services, animal care, car payments, or home/ vehicle maintenance are not eligible for funding. All documentation (utility bills, invoices, mortgage/rent statements, etc.) should be in the name of the ALA member and/or their spouse.

Only applications on the ALA website at www.ALAforVeterans.org/AEF will be accepted for processing. Applications must be submitted electronically or mailed directly to

the national organization to maintain confidentiality. If applications are complete and contain all of the required documentation, a decision can be made in approximately 14 business days. All decisions by the AEF Review Committee are final.

How can you help the AEF program? When disaster strikes or an ALA member is experiencing a personal crisis, please make them aware of the AEF program. Start a fundraiser with donations specifically designated to the AEF program. Members may donate online (one-time donation or monthly donations) at www.ALAforVeterans.org/donate or mail donations to department headquarters, marked "AEF." Donations cannot be earmarked for a specific individual or disaster area.

Nathan Bond Department Commander

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

The American Legion's rich legacy is a testament to our unwavering dedication and profound impact, evident in initiatives like establishing the VA and the G.I. Bill. Our influence resonates not only across the nation but also deeply within the heartlands of Wisconsin-from Kenosha to Beaver Dam, Mount Horeb to Greendale, and Wausau to Spooner and Boyd. Programs such

as the Oratorical Contest, Badger Boys State, and Legion Baseball and Softball exemplify our commitment to empowering the next generation. By honoring our past, we ensure a vibrant future.

Education forms a cornerstone for advancing our legacy. Whether you have been a Legionnaire for five minutes, five years, or fifty-five years, there is always more to learn about The American Legion. Through the Wisconsin American Legion College, we set the standard in educating and training our members, offering both in-person and online courses for every Legionnaire, regardless of their tenure. By expanding our knowledge, we strengthen our ability to tell the story of The American Legion. It is by telling our story and running our programs that our fellow Veterans, young, and not-so-young, will join us.

Assisting Veterans and their families is the heart of our orga-

nization. The American Legion Family (Legionnaires, Auxiliary Sons of The American Legion, and Riders) can achieve far more in partnership with our County and Tribal Service Officers, the WDVA, and other Veteran organizations. We must lead in these partnerships. Our "Be The One" mission needs to kick into high gear. We must be passionate about our Buddy Checks and provide small acts of service like rides to medical appointments, help with yard care, and activities at our Posts. We must each "Be The One" to give hope, to give purpose, and to give life to our fellow Veterans and their families.

Most importantly, we pass on our legacy by fulfilling our duty to our Community, State, and Nation. Younger Veterans are desperately seeking purpose and meaning in their lives. By contributing to our programs—such as Legion Baseball and Softball, sponsoring Scouting troops, and assisting homeless Veterans—they will see their chance for purpose and meaning. We are an organization that changes and saves lives.

I invite you to join me in preserving our legacy. Let us work to carry it into the future by promoting education, assisting fellow Veterans, and performing our duty. LEAD in your local community, and we, your elected officers, will provide the tools to do that. Together, we will move our legacy forward!

SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER



Christopher Dannenmann SAL Detachment Commander

hearty congratulations to all of the newly elected Commanders and Officers across the Detachment of Wisconsin. We have had a fantastic year thanks to all of your work. Our 133 squadrons

in this great state have surpassed last year's total economic impact!

You have given 995,435 volunteer hours and \$524,064 in donations for a total economic impact of \$3,844,248. All this and we have added 7 new squadrons, reaching just over 89% renewals of our current members with 43 Squadrons achieving all-time high membership goals.

You have achieved all of this with just 67 of the 133 Squadrons reporting your activities and donations to Headquarters. Just imagine where we would be if all of our members reported their volunteer efforts and

and reported them to the Detachment. Let's all try for that goalpost this year.

Our congratulations to the newly elected American Legion Family leadership. I expect to work very closely with Commander Nathan Bond, President Sue Hembrook and Director Corey Doehrmann, Commander Bond has chosen "FAMILY FIRST" as our motto to work not only as a team but as a family as well. As Camp American Legion celebrates its 100th Birthday, we have decided to make Camp American Legion the main project for this year. We can all pitch in to help rejuvenate our beautiful and unique camp.

We can focus on other important projects as well throughout the year. We have set familiar goals for the Detachment as a whole. Vice Commanders Steve Duboise, Jeremy Mason, Dave Hodgson and Randy Timms are poised to reach our goals:

Greetings and my the Squadrons turned in their total efforts less Veterans through our Freez'in for a Reason Program that has gained national recognition

> · Keep building our Troop & Family Support through our ALF Dog Program

- Drive for 5 in '25 that's 5000 members by this time next year and we are only 256 members away from that goal with several new Squadrons in the wings.
- Ask all Squadrons to press onward with their per capita Legion Program **Donations**
- · Continue Leadership Training at all levels, particularly at the Squadron level for Leadership Succession. As Past Department Commander Carl Stuvengen brought forward, Find the Next You and we will continue to grow and succeed.

So, let's go out there and Be The One. And together, WE WILL ALL BE LEGION STRONG

P.S. This is a special thank you to Cooper, • Expand our commitment to **Home**- age 12, our youngest acting DEC Chaplain.

Sue Hembrook 2025-2026 Department President

PRESIDENT'S **MESSAGE**

It is an absolute privilege to be your Department President for the coming year. I truly will do my very best to fulfill the role you have entrusted to me. My theme is

"Honor our Country, Support our Veterans." We are coming up on the 250th Anniversary of the founding of this great country of ours on July 4, 2026. Our military has been defending our way of life for all of those 250 years in one way or another. We need to promote patriotism in our land and honor and support those who fought to keep our freedom. The adage that freedom is not free is absolutely true. Many men and women have devoted their lives to support our freedom. We do not need another 9/11 to show our patriotism. We need to show it in our communities every day. Our membership is based on the fact that one of our family members served. We owe it to them to promote patriotism; it is a fitting tribute to our loved ones.

Our membership theme is going to take on a fun direction. We are going to be visiting our National Parks and seeing which park can attract the most visitors. The "Rangers' (a.k.a. District Membership Chairmen) will be stamping the park passports and our Department Membership Team will come up with some fun events. What better way to celebrate our 250th Anniversary than by supporting our National Parks! Please remember that membership is the task of each and every one of you. We need to support the entire Legion Family in our membership recruitment. There are awards based on recruitment of the entire "Family". Details will be coming soon.

The Department Commander, SAL Detachment Commander, American Legion Riders Director and I are promoting the entire Legion Family this coming year. It is vital that we all work together, as we need each and every one of us to support our Veterans, active-duty military and communities. Together we can move mountains, and together we can promote patriotism within our communities.

LEGION RIDERS DIRECTOR



Corey Doehrmann American Legion Riders Association

Wisconsin convention in Green Bay, WI, was a great event and included opportunities to learn from past, present & future leaders of the Legion. It was great to hear others' perspectives on American Legion programs. There were also chances to socialize and meet fellow Legion Family members from across the state, learn what their

Legion posts, Auxiliary units, S.A.L. squadrons & Rider districts on what is being successful for them. Congratulations to Nathan Bond on being elected Department Commander, Sue Hembrook on being elected Department President and Chris Dannenmann on being elected Detachment Commander. If you can, I highly recommend attending next year, July 15-19, 2026, in Appleton.

The Legion Riders of Wisconsin have been busy so far this year. We participated in the 100th anniversary of Camp American Legion. District 11 held their annual peanut run to raise funds to ensure the chipmunks at Camp don't run out of food. We also participated in many various community parades as well as July 4th parades and events. In late June we completed the Wisconsin Legion Riders – Cruise for Legion, September 13.

The 106th American Legion Department of a Cause, 'Be The One for WI – 25'. We rode more than 600 miles and at this writing our great American Legion Family has raised over \$70,000 to help our fellow Veterans.

There are many events still to come this year but just to list a few: Badger Youth Camp Ride for Kids will be held on September 6 starting at the Delafield Legion Post. This event raises money for the military children of families who are deployed/deploying. All donations will help more children attend Camp. Any motorized vehicle is welcome. There will be a scavenger hunt, raffles, motorcycle slow race and much more. Also on September 6, District 7's annual Legacy Ride is a ride through some of the best areas of the state and raises money for many Veteran causes. On September 7, District 2 will host its 9th West Bend National Guard Armory Family Day at Regner Park in West Bend, solidly under the National Security pillar this event ensures the soldiers and families know we are here to support them.

If you have any questions about the Wisconsin Legion Riders don't hesitate to contact me: Corey Doehrmann/State Director, cell 262-305-0305 or email at alrawi.director@gmail.com. Our next meeting/ event after this publication will be the Fall Ride to Camp American

