



BADGER



LEGIONNAIRE

& WISCONSIN VOL 101 #5 | OCT. 2024



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



AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL ALL-STARS HOLD ANNUAL BANQUETS

The 2024 American Legion Baseball and Softball seasons came to an end with the All-Star banquet on Saturday, August 10 in Milwaukee honoring the baseball and softball All-Stars. Baseball Commissioner Roger Mathison was recognized for his years of dedicated service to The Wisconsin American Legion Baseball Association. Roger had to step down after 11 years as he became National Vice Commander for the 2024/2025 Membership year. On Sunday, August 11, the two All-Star Baseball teams, the Stars (above left) and the Stripes (above right), played after the conclusion of the Milwaukee Brewers game at American Family Field.



APPLETON TO HOST WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION'S MIDWINTER 2025, JANUARY 16-19

Join us in Appleton January 16-19, 2025, for the 101st Midwinter Conference. The Midwinter Conference is full of planning, learning and fun, and has become the can't miss event of the year.

The weekend begins on **Thursday, January 16** with move in and set up.

The American Legion Foundation Meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m.

Friday, January 17 come and witness the work of the Department Committees and Commissions in action as they work on ways to improve the lives of Veterans, their families,

and their communities. That evening, enjoy the many hospitality rooms and meet the future leaders of The American Legion.

Saturday, January 18 is the day for **ALL LEGIONNAIRES**. There will be a full day of learning. Classes



include some of your favorites such as Officer Courses, Funeral Honors, Service Officer training, and at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, there will be a presentation by the University of Wisconsin MIA Recovery and Identification Project. Watch the website for updates as they become available. Where else can you get that much knowledge in one day for only \$25?

Join Commander Jim on Saturday night for the *Celebrate Your Heritage Celebration*. There will be dinner, followed by live entertainment. The theme is dress like your heritage (yes, Commander may be in a kilt, but you will only know if you attend).

The American Legion Auxiliary will also be holding a session on Saturday, and the Sons of The American Legion will be holding sessions on Friday and Saturday.

Sunday, January 19 join the Chaplains for a Four Chaplains service, followed by the Department Executive Committee.

You will leave the weekend more knowledgeable of The American Legion and its many Leadership positions and programs and energized to go out and share this information with your fellow Veterans and communities.

Updated conference information can be found at wilegion.org.

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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”

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

The “Wisconsin” deadline for copy is
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A THANK-YOU AND AN INVITATION

TO THE SPONSORS OF BADGER BOYS STATE

“The seeds you sow, you may never see grow.” This is one of the many mottos we carry with us at Badger Boys State that we instill in our counseling staff and citizens during our week of joy and learning. Indeed—it is nearly impossible to measure the impact our actions and lessons will have on the hundreds of Wisconsin’s best young people after only a few days. But we can be sure of a few things—the impact is positive, and the impact is lasting.



Since our first session in 1939, the magic has been fueled by those willing to invest in the future generation of leaders. Many of our first investors were Veterans of the Spanish-American War and the First World War. Individuals and Legion Posts from around the state knew how vital it was to invest in the next generation. Almost every year since then, our sponsors routinely recognize that the promise and potential of America rests



in the promise and potential of its youth. On behalf of the counselors, staff, and over 60,000 BBS alumni, we thank you for your support. A sponsorship of one citizen each year goes toward food, lodging, and safety for our citizens and staff during our week at Eau Claire. What’s more, although our sponsorship fee is comparable with other Boys State programs around the country, Wisconsin’s is considered one of the best. This indicates good stewardship of your

investment in the future. Traditionally, Legion Posts, other organizations, and individuals sponsor local students who are selected, elected, or volunteer to attend. However, in recent years, we’ve run into what we consider a “good problem”: students who wish to attend BBS, but do not have a local sponsor. At Badger Boys State, we know that every potential citizen is a citizen with potential. If there are no more sponsorships locally, we

encourage you to consider sponsoring another Wisconsin citizen so that they may attend. Your life-changing impact will not be lessened one bit. “The seeds you sow, you may never see grow.” It’s a powerful and profound statement. But Badger Boys State offers all our sponsors a unique opportunity. As always, we invite any and all Legionnaires and other sponsors to Eau Claire during the week to witness your investment paying off.

2025 ORATORICAL REGIONAL AND FINALS CONTEST DATE SET

The 88th Annual High School Oratorical and Regional Contests are scheduled for Saturday, March 29, 2025 in Todd Wehr Hall at Ripon College. The day will begin with opening ceremonies at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Regional contests beginning at 10:00 a.m. The finals contest will begin at 12:45 p.m. the same day. The winner of the finals contest will represent Wisconsin at the National Oratorical Contest scheduled May 16 – 18, 2025 at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan.

Legion Posts should be communicating information about this contest to their local high schools so we can get participation from all districts. The best contacts in the schools are forensic coaches, history teachers and guidance counselors. Posts should have their contests in December or early January. Counties should have their contests in January or early February. Posts and counties will need to be in contact with their District Oratorical Chair. Districts need to have their contests late January or February. Districts will need to have their contests completed and certifications sent to Legion Headquarters no later than March 1, 2025.

The Department of Wisconsin mirrors our contest to the National contest; therefore, many volunteers are needed. If you are interested in being a volunteer, contact Program Coordinator Sheri Hicks at Legion Headquarters.

The assigned topics for the 2025 contests are as follows:

Amendment 1

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment XVIII

Section 1. After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation



thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

Section 2. The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Section 3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

Amendment XXVI

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Please see our website for more information about the Oratorical program <https://wilegion.org/oratorical> or contact Program Coordinator Sheri Hicks at Headquarters.



LEGION HOLDS 7TH LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREER ACADEMY FOR HS STUDENTS

The Wisconsin American Legion held their 7th Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy (WALLECA) for recent high school graduates and upcoming high school seniors at the Wisconsin State Patrol Academy at Fort McCoy. 39 students from throughout the state of Wisconsin participated in this academy that began on July 29, 2024 and ended on August 2, 2024. Department Commander Jim Johnson served as Director of Training. The following Legion family members served as staff: Michelle Adams, Department Historian and Mukwonago Post 375 member; Kaia Glenn, Pt. Washington Post 82 member; SMSgt. Linda Koenen, DeForest Post 348 member; Chris Sherman, Pewaukee Squadron 71 member; John Wolfe, Green Bay Post 11 member; Charlie Young, 2nd District Commander.

The cadets were given classroom instruction and participated in physical fitness activities. Instructors for the academy were from the Wisconsin State Patrol and many law enforcement agencies from throughout the state. Some of the classes offered were Ethics, Crime Scene Investigation, Firearms Training, Defense and Arrest Tactics, Peer Support and De-escalation, Probation and Parole, Department of Natural Resources, Local, County, State and Federal Law Enforcement, Training and Standards and many more.

The cadets' days started with PT, then breakfast, marching, then classroom instruction. The academy is funded by many sponsors. Anyone interested in supporting WALLECA can contact Commander Jim Johnson or Program Coordinator Sheri Hicks.

The cadets were chosen through an application process that began back in January. The 2025 academy is



scheduled for June 23– June 27, 2025. The application process will open in January 2025.

The academy ended with a graduation ceremony that featured Brown County Sheriff and Green Bay Amer-

ican Legion Post 11 member Todd Delain as the keynote speaker and Wisconsin State Patrol Superintendent Tim Camahan offering supportive advice to the cadets. Each cadet received a certificate of completion.

ROGER MATHISON ELECTED NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER



The Wisconsin American Legion congratulates its very own Past Department Commander Roger Mathison of American Legion Post 116 Coon Valley on his election to National Vice Commander. Roger will be overseeing the central region which includes Wisconsin.

SIGN UP: LEGION OFF-ROADERS



The Wisconsin American Legion Off-Roaders had their first meeting on July 22 and had five new members sign up. They had another event scheduled on the Cheese Trail in September. Off-Roaders is for ATV, UTV and snowmobile riders. Sign up today at <https://wilegion.org/its-happening!> The entire Legion family is welcome to join if they own an ATV, UTV or snowmobile.

POST 82 FISH DAYS FUNDRAISER



The Van Ells-Schanen American Legion Post 82 in Port Washington donated tips totaling \$3,405 to the Department of Wisconsin from their annual Fish Days fundraiser. The tips were used to purchase six sets of retractable banners highlighting The Wisconsin American Legion Programs. Each Department Vice Commander was issued a set of retractable banners to be used by their Districts during events to promote our programs. This visibility to our programs highlights our purpose and relevance. The remaining donated funds will be used to continue the mission of reducing Veteran suicide through Be The One for Wisconsin.

At right, Commander Jim Johnson receives the donations from Post 82 Commander Ryan Lanser.





FREEZIN' FOR A REASON IS DEEMED A BLAZIN' SUCCESS FOR HOMELESS VET AWARENESS

Freezin' for a Reason has been a very successful high-profile fundraiser that sheds light on homeless Veterans and the Wisconsin American Legion programs. Several Wisconsin Legion Posts and squadrons have had their members sleep outside in the cold during winter months in cardboard boxes or small tents to raise awareness to the needs of homeless Veterans. This event also helps illuminate our American Legion programs.

The event is sponsored by the War Memorial Center in partnership with the Wisconsin American Legion on December 6 at the War Memorial Center in beautiful downtown Milwaukee. This will be our first annual Freezin' for a Reason with the War Memorial Center. The money raised at this event will go to the Wisconsin American Legion programs for

Veterans. Your post, county or district can be a part of this event by sponsoring participants. We would like each participant to have a goal of achieving \$2,000. Any checks can be made payable to Wisconsin American Legion. To donate or sign up to participate, please go to warmemorialcenter.org/veterans-resources. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 for our programs.

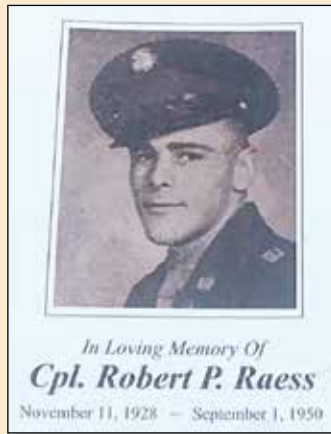
There will be several information tables on display. Membership will have a table highlighting Legion programs. Tables will be reserved for the Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, Legion Riders, and Veterans Service Officers. We expect to have 20 tables available. If you want to have a table or volunteer at one of the tables, please contact Joe Leone at 414-688-2023. Come and join in on the excitement!



Commander's Choice Winner
Bob Ripp - 1968 Road Runner

PATRIOTS CAR SHOW AT HQ

The 1st annual Patriots Car Show was held at HQ on September 7. There were 60 vehicles that included cars, trucks, motorcycles and even a tractor. Above is the Commander's Favorite winner. Stay tuned for information on next year's show.



In Loving Memory Of
Cpl. Robert P. Raess
November 11, 1928 — September 1, 1950



HONORING CORPORAL ROBERT RAESS

Submitted by
Department Vice Commander Gerard Hook

Legion Posts throughout the area lined the overpasses to welcome Corporal Robert Raess home Thursday night, September 5. On Saturday, September 7, family, friends, and Veterans Service Organizations paid our final respects to Corporal Raess with funeral honors.

On March 26, 2024, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Corporal Robert Paul Raess, missing from the Korean War.

Corporal Raess entered the U.S. Army from Wisconsin and served in the recoilless rifle squad of C Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. On August 31, Cpl. Raess's 1st Battalion was positioned on high ground above the Naktong River, reinforcing the front lines of American and Republic of Korea forces defending Pusan Harbor, South Korea. The battalion's position was overrun when the North Korean People's Army (NKPA) launched an offensive against the gathered forces. After the NKPA overran their position during the offensive, the men of the recoilless rifle squad made their way off the company's position and down a trail that led to Lake U-Po, where they hoped to meet up with other withdrawing American units. However, as they moved along the base of a small hill, NKPA soldiers atop the hill fired on them, and Cpl. Raess and two other men were hit and fell into a ditch near the trail. Two survivors later reported that the NKPA troops then overran the squad, captured prisoners, and bayoneted the men in the ditch, including Cpl. Raess. During post-war search and recovery efforts, one set of remains was recovered from the south of Lake U-Po, however they could not be identified at the time and were buried as Unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Cpl. Raess' remains were

not among those identified during these efforts. On April 19, 2021, this set of Unknown remains were disinterred and sent to the DPAA laboratory for further study. The laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available established an association between one set of these unknown remains and Cpl. Raess.

Submitted by
3rd District Commander Dan O'Brien

Yesterday I had the honor to attend the burial of Cpl. Robert P. Raess in Dodgeville. Robert, a Korean War Veteran, was declared missing in action on September 1, 1951 in Korea and was officially declared deceased on December 31, 1953. 73 years after becoming an MIA, he was returned home for a proper Military Funeral. Thank you to the Legion Riders for the escort to the cemetery, to Dodgeville Post 97 for the Military Honor Salute, and to the Veterans who held the Flags (Legion and VFW Members) as the funeral procession entered the cemetery. It was my honor to be there for Robert's return to his final resting place and to be with the Veterans who were there to show honor to Robert, his family, and friends.

As Commander Seehafer said, make it personal and relevant. I knew Robert's brother, John, his wife, Grace (members of Post 214 Legion and Auxiliary) and I grew up with their children. Both John and Grace have passed away, but after the services I got to talk with my classmate, Robert Raess's nephew and namesake Bob Raess, to express my condolences. As I shook his hand, I looked at all the flags blowing in the wind and all the Veterans who were present, and it made me feel proud to be a member of The American Legion and to be there for this solemn ceremony for a Veteran that is finally home.



POST 182: 80 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP



Members of Dirrigl-Sawales American Legion Post 182 met at the home of Willard "Bill" Washatka on August 1, 2024, to honor his 80 years of continuous membership. Bill enlisted in the U.S. Navy after graduating from Lincoln High School in Park Falls. He joined Post 182 immediately. Serving during World War II, he was stationed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Kearsarge (CV-35). Upon discharge from the Navy, he used the GI Bill to attend Superior State University, now U.W. Superior. He returned to Park Falls, married Margaret Romanowich, and together, they raised three sons and a daughter. Bill continues to live at home in Park Falls with his wife, Marge. American Legion Post 182 is honored to have Bill as a member for the past 80 years.



POST 169: 79 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Larson-Torgerson Post 169 of Amery recently recognized 98-year-old David Ross Smith for his 79 years with The American Legion. Ross continues to be an active member of the Post, participating in all meetings and events.

A WWII Veteran, Ross was assigned to the Amphibious Attack Transport USS Collingsworth. Ross was responsible for navigation and maintained the ship's logs, carrying 1,800 Marines to assaults in the Pacific islands of Saipan, Guam, Ulithi, and Okinawa. The fleet endured kamikaze attacks during the landings at Okinawa. Ross was off the island of Okinawa when the atomic bomb was dropped on Japan. After the war, their ship was assigned two missions to move 4,000 Chinese soldiers from Hong Kong to multiple locations in China in support of Chiang Kai-Shek and his battle against communism. In the two years Ross was aboard the USS Collingsworth, they traveled over 70,000 miles.

Submitted by Post 169 Commander Mark Starsky.

POST 384: 75 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

98-year-old Jim Reigle with his Certificate of Continuous Membership for his 75 years in Kewaskum American Legion Post 384.

Submitted by Post 384 Commander Jim Dorn.



POST 313: 50 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP



At the September 9, 2024 monthly meeting of the Black Earth American Legion Mickelsons-Martin Post 313, Terrence Rettenmund was presented with a membership certificate for his 50 years in The American Legion.

POST 147: 50 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP



Medford Post 147 presents Leon Gustafson with a membership certificate for 50 continuous years with the American Legion Post. L to R: 11th District Commander Jerry Johnson, Bruce Emmerich Commander Post 147, American Legion member Leon Gustafson.

POST 147: 45 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP



Medford Post 147 honors Ed Hemmer and Bill Hartman for 45 continuous years with The American Legion. Left to right are Commander Bruce Emmerich, Ed Hemmer and Bill Hartman.



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

PEWAUKEE POST 71 MEDAL OF HONOR RIDE



Members from Pewaukee Post 71 took part in the Medal of Honor Ride from the Milwaukee War Memorial to Wisconsin Harley-Davidson on September 7.



POST 236 DONATES BANNER

American Legion Post 236 donated a banner to the city of Algoma. The banner contains the insignia of the five armed forces plus the new Space Force. The banner will be displayed under the American flag daily at Legion Park in Algoma. Pictured left to right is Algoma Mayor Steve Lautenbach, Post 236 Commander Mike Froelich and auxiliary member John Sharp.

THIRD DISTRICT PICNIC

Food and camaraderie were in abundance at the 3rd District American Legion family picnic in Darlington on September 8.



POST 147 SOFTBALL, BASEBALL



District 11 Medford Post 147 presents the American Legion State Softball Championship Girls team. American Legion members left to right: Bruce Emmerich, Roger Neubauer, Vern Nuemueller Russell Dray, and David Nelson.



American Legion Post 147 Medford presents our American Legion varsity baseball team. They were runner-up in the State Championship AA game. Legion members present were Bruce Emmerich, Vern Nuemueller, Roger Dray, and Roger Emmerich.

POST 45 AT THE HERO BOWL



Elkhorn American Legion Post 45 preparing to post the Colors for the national anthem at the annual Elkhorn HS football Hero Bowl. The Hero Bowl upholds the values of gratitude and patriotism as it honors active military and Veterans.

LABOR DAY AT POST 283 IN SURING



Marine Corps Veteran MSgt Danny Connelly with the JD Pickers opens up Labor Day festivities at American Legion Post 283 in Suring.



DEFOREST HOSTS STATE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

For the second consecutive year the Olson-Grinde-O'Donnell Post 348 in DeForest, with support and assistance of ALA Unit 348, ran the state softball tournament. The second annual Legion Softball State Tournament was held at the DeForest Athletic Complex August 2-4. It was a two-division double elimination tournament. Division 1 qualifiers were Antigo, Augusta, Sparta, Waupun, Wausau, West Salem, and Whittlesey. Division 2 qualifiers were Acadia, Durand, Fall Creek, Osseo, Thorp, Viroqua, Westby, and Wittenberg-Biramwood.

Congratulations to Whittlesey, winner of Division 1, and Fall

Creek, winner of Division 2. Both teams played four games during the three-day tournament without a loss.

The Olson-Grinde-O'Donnell Post 348 Color Guard presented the national colors at the opening ceremony on Friday night which featured remarks from Roger Mathison, Commissioner of Wisconsin Legion baseball and softball. He ended with a poignant 26 seconds of silence in memory of Pete Swanson, an influential figure in Viroqua Legion baseball and softball, and high school baseball over numerous decades, who died unexpectedly in July. Past National Commander Denise Rohan welcomed all to the

tournament and threw out the first pitch. Past Department Commander and current Department Adjutant Julie Mulie visited on Saturday. The Tournament was an utter and complete success. The days were long (fourteen hours Friday and Saturday) and there was little relief from the hot sunny days, but the reward was an excellent tournament experience for all the teams.

A Big thank you to Past Post Commander and Tournament Director Dick Snortum, the PEC, the Auxiliary, and all who worked so hard over the past six months, and those who generously and sacrificially worked during the tournament.



SQUADRON 84 EXCELLENCE AWARD



SAL Squadron 84 in Monroe won a membership Excellence Award for 100% membership. SAL 3rd District Commander Sean Patchin presents the award to Peter Blum of Squadron 84.



SAL MAKES PRESENTATION AT BADGER YOUTH CAMP

In the summer of 2023, several members from the Sons of the American Legion came together and presented a program to roughly 150 school-age children at the WI Army National Guard's "Badger Youth Camp" (BYC). The event was so well accepted by camp staff and the children, we were invited to come back for the 2024 Camp and repeat our presentation. In fact, we've now been told by BYC they are writing our SAL program into their regular schedule!

Dave Fuller, Allen Watry, Chris Sherman, Chris Dannemann, John Hoeft (The Hammer), John Hoeft II, YiaYia Wischki, Alexander Wischki and I, all played a variety of roles during each of the 90-minute presentations. We ended each session with a Q&A with several Veterans who were asked assorted questions about their service. Everyone gained from the experience and we're looking forward to next year's Camp.

The children were divided into two groups, then we told the story of how the American flag came to be. We explained how important it is to show respect for the flag when it's presented. Some years ago, Joyce Buehl, Past Auxiliary President, entrusted her script to "That Old Ragged Flag" to me and we've used a slightly modified version of that. It's been a hoot to watch YiaYia play the part of Betsy Ross!

We told the story of how TAPS was discovered and recited the words that were later penned for it. Alex did a great job of playing TAPS while we all stood at attention. We asked the children if they wanted to learn the proper way in which to fold the American flag and EVERY child loved it! This hands-on experience was one of the highlights of all four sessions. Then we demonstrated



the proper manner in which to retire an unusable flag. There are an estimated 10,000 children of active-duty military in the State of Wisconsin alone. Reaching just a fraction of them has been a privilege and one we will continue. If you would like to join us and help us expand the program offering, just let me know.

Contact: Randy Timms, District 1 Commander, Assistant Detachment Adjutant at saldistrict1@gmail.com.



EXELAND TROUT FESTIVAL

Legion and Auxiliary members from Exeland Post 425, Bruce Post 268, and Winter Post 303 collectively led the parade for the Exeland Trout Festival on August 29.

BADGER HONOR FLIGHT

Morris Sadicario and DVC Hook at the Badger Honor Flight send-off on September 7. Morris is from Post 501, Madison.





POST 21 SPONSORS LITTLE LEAGUERS

American Legion Post 21 Paul Herrick, Kenosha had an exciting summer watching a little league team sponsored by one of their members. The Little League of Kenosha has been around for 71 years. There are 31 teams made up of boys and girls from ages 7 to 12 years old. The fields are located in the center of town and are named after Dr. James L. Santarelli, who is the commissioner of the league. Three out of the four diamonds have Astro turf and the goal is to complete the last one by next year.

Post 21 member Milt Dean came up with the idea to get involved locally and sponsor a team in the Little League of Kenosha. He brought the idea up at a meeting. With the Post's and Dr. Santarelli's help, the American Legion Post 21 Team was created. Milt sponsored the team and decided to have American Legion Post 21 put on all the uniforms to represent the Legion. The Coach for the Team, Joe Kostka, put his heart into the team's progress. The team started off rough and had a three wins to 11 losses. The team made a recovery and ended up in 4th place overall.

Post 21 and Milt Dean were very proud of the work the boys had put in and had a pizza party at the post at the end of the season. Milt plans to continue sponsoring this team. Milt said, "The words on the back of each child's yellow jersey says it all – AMERICAN LEGION POST 21."

Pictured from left to right is Dr. Santarelli, Assistant coach Jeff Gilliland, Assistant Coach Matt Mauer, Assistant Coach Joe Gigliotti, Post 21 Commander Matt Christiansen, Post 21 member Milt Dean, Head Coach Joe Kostka with the Team in the middle.



From left, Terry Barrington (3rd Vice, 4th District) is in the booth (above) with Andy Minch (1st Vice 4th District).

WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION HAS BOOTH AT INDY CAR RACES AT MILWAUKEE MILE

The Wisconsin American Legion had a booth at the Indy car races held at the Milwaukee Mile to promote the Be The One mission and 988 suicide prevention. A County Veterans Service Officer was also on site to answer Veterans benefit questions. It was an amazing experience for the volunteers to promote the mission to hundreds of Veterans from across the nation. When Veterans were asked if they belonged to The American Legion, many said they didn't, and the common

response was, "I don't want to be in a bar or place with smoke." The Legion volunteers explained that is not what The American Legion is about and that American Legion Posts are safe places to connect and be in fellowship with other Veterans. 65 new members were recruited over the weekend. This part was very humbling as it was not our mission to recruit new members at this event.

Submitted by Linda Pfeiffer.

DELAFIELD SONS HOST BLOCK PARTY



Delafield Sons of The American Legion Squadron 196 hosted a corn roast at the Delafield Block Party on July 11, 12, and 13. All of the proceeds will go to Veterans' needs in the area.

POST 42 DONATION



Post 42 Platteville made their annual donation of \$1,000 to the Platteville Middle School for school supplies on August 27. Submitted by Tom Taber, Adjutant of Legion Post 42.

POSTS 236, 319 PERFORM A BUDDY CHECK

Algoma Post 236 and Casco Post 319 took "buddy check" to a whole new level. After Honor Guard duties for a deceased member, the members visited with Post 236 Chaplain Bob Lohrey at his Algoma home as he recovers from open heart surgery.

Photo submitted by Algoma Post 236 Commander Mike Froelich.



A TANK MOVES ON...

A park in the Village of Melrose, known for almost 67 years as “The Tank Park,” may be known now as “The Village Park.” As of July 23, 2024, the 33-ton Army surplus tank that became a fixture in the park was moved to a new location next to the Melrose American Legion Hall on Washington Street (Main Street). The tank’s deteriorating concrete slab base, and the Melrose Village Board felt it was too close to the street and could block traffic visibility, were the reasons for the move. After discussion, American Legion members voted to move the tank.

The Model M4A3 Sherman Tank was obtained by American Legion Post 439 in September 1957 as a memorial to the war dead. It was driven from Fort McCoy, then known as Camp McCoy, by Legion



members Rube Stuessel and Gale Bernett. The tank, manufactured by the Ford Motor Company and used during WWII and the Korean Conflict, was equipped with a 500 HP, 60 Degree Ford V-8 Engine, with a fuel capacity of 175 gallons. Maximum range was 130 miles, and maximum speed was 28 MPH. The tank carried a tank commander, driver, assistant driver, gunner, and loader.

The tank was dedicated on October 9, 1958. Legion member Donald Schmidt presented the tank to Village President Oliver O’Hearn who gave the acceptance speech. The Melrose High School Band played. Oswald Johnson and Rev. Whit-rabbit of Black River Falls were guest speakers. Victor Clark served as master of ceremonies. The tank was sealed and inspected. A potluck dinner followed.

Mike Sacia, current American Legion Facility Supervisor, stated a new Conditional Deed of Gift Agreement with the

United States of America, Secretary of the Army, known as the Donor, and the American Legion Post No. 439, known as the Donee, stated, “The Donee shall display the property in a careful and prudent manner, and shall maintain it and make such repairs to it as are necessary to keep it in a clean and safe condition so that its appearance will not discredit the Donor.”

Modern Crane Service of Onalaska moved the tank. The tank’s foundation was paid for by The American Legion with financial support from ACT Concrete of Mindoro. The tank has been professionally prepared for painting. Barriers will be installed in accordance with the new lease.

Current Commander Dennis Schaller said it was the cooperation and planning of many individuals to keep the tank in Melrose.

Submitted by Mary I. Murray Woods, Historian of Black River Falls Public Library, Jackson County History Room.



POST 288 GUN SAFE



The Peter Wollner Post 288, Cedarburg, has donated the funds to purchase a gun safe for the safety of our Veterans in crisis. Recipient of funds and holder of the safe, the Cedarburg Police Department, is affiliated with the Southeastern Wisconsin Veteran Suicide Prevention Task Force. The program ‘LIVE TODAY - PUT IT AWAY’ enables gun owners struggling with thoughts of suicide or harm to others to bring their guns in to be stored away until the crisis has passed. The gun owner faces no legal consequences for bringing the weapon in. The one and only intent is safekeeping of their weapon in their time of crisis.

POST 214 FUNDRAISER



Department Vice Commander Jerry Hook (right) joined Darlington Post 214’s Commander Ron Lumaye and other members for their September Steak and Chicken Supper on the 14th. Proceeds go towards scholarships and other children and youth programs.



SAL 3rd District Commander Seán Patchin presents membership awards to SAL Squadron 385 Commander Mike Rohan.



SAL 3rd District Commander Seán Patchin presents membership awards to SAL Squadron 105 Commander Blain Nolte.

SONS NET AWARDS AT DISTRICT PICNIC

The 3rd District American Legion Family held their annual picnic on September 8, in Darlington. At this celebration of their past year’s accomplishment, SAL 3rd District Commander Seán Patchin presented membership awards to Squadrons 105 (Shullsburg) and 385 (Verona). Both squadrons earned awards for achieving 100% membership by the Legion’s Birthday and before Veterans Day for Membership Year 2024. They both also received an award for achieving an all-time high membership. In addition,

Squadron 105 has received the Triple Nickel Award for achieving at least 105% membership, 85% retention of members and recruiting five new members. The SAL squadron from Shullsburg also received Honorable Mention for having the second highest percent increase in 2024 membership in the Detachment of Wisconsin.

Squadron 105 was chartered in 2023. Squadron 385 Commander Mike Rohan had just returned from spending this past year as the assistant to The American Legion National Commander.

POST 71 9/11 TRIBUTE EVENT



Pewaukee Post 71 took part in honoring all the heroes of 9/11 with a tribute at the Pewaukee Lakefront.

BADGER HONOR FLIGHT SEND-OFF



Department Vice Commander Jerry Hook with Stoughton Post 59 Color Guard at the Badger Honor Flight send-off at the Dane County Airport in Madison on September 7.



James Fialkowski
Department Veterans
Service Officer

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

HEALTHCARE EXPANSION FOR 9/11 RESPONDERS AND RATING ERRORS

It is official. World Trade Center Health Program Begins Enrollments for Expanded Population of Pentagon and Shanksville Responders. Below is a modified version of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) 9/11/2024 press release.

Based on authority from Congress, the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program has expanded enrollment to include additional responders who served on 9/11 and in the following weeks at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, following the publication of an interim final rule effective September 11, 2024.

Prior to this interim final rule, there were a total of 1,330 Pentagon and Shanksville responders enrolled in the WTC Health Program (1,183 Pentagon and 147 Shanksville). However, previous research shows it is possible that up to 8,500 people may have responded at the Pentagon site and more than 1,000 people responded to the Shanksville crash site. These people are now eligible for the WTC Health Program and include:

- Employees of the Department of Defense (DOD) or any other federal agency, contractors of the DOD or any other federal agency
- Members of a regular or reserve component of the uniformed services

“Today’s action means that those who bravely responded to the Pentagon and Shanksville sites on 9/11 and in the following weeks, who were previously ineligible, may now qualify for the WTC Health Program, opening up monitoring and treatment with no out-of-pocket costs upon enrolling in the Program.” “We encourage all Pentagon and Shanksville responders to visit our website, www.cdc.gov/wtc, to learn more about eligibility and enrollment.” (End of NIOSH release.)

On another note: The Office of Inspector General (OIG) has identified issues related to convalescence benefits, special monthly compensation, and claims decision accuracy. The OIG’s recommendations are being addressed by the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Under Secretary for benefits. The OIG reviewed the effectiveness of VBA’s implementation of the changes to the rating schedule specifically for hip and knee replacements or resurfacing. The OIG estimated that in approximately 33 percent of reviewed claims, VBA rating specialists did not assign the correct number of months when granting periods of convalescence. Approximately 18 percent of claims did not accurately consider Veterans’ additional entitlement to special monthly compensation, and an estimated 38 percent resulted in improper payments of about \$3.3 million in total benefits overpayments and underpayments.

If you had a service-connected hip or knee replaced and have questions or concerns, the VBA may have erred on your rating, contact our service office at 414-902-5722 or your local County Veterans Service Office at 844-947-2876.

POST 43 HONORS LARS



Ripon Legion Post 43 honors the late Larsen "Lars" Clement prior to a game. Clement coached the Post 43 baseball team to two state championships during his time with the program. American Legion Commander Mike Meeker presents a framed jersey to Clements wife of 58 years, Mary, and son Bob.

POST 236 HERO QUILT



Algoma Post 236 delivered a HERO QUILT to the wife of deceased Post member Ken Papham. Pictured right to left are Post Commander Mike Froelich, Mrs. Papham and Post Chaplain Bob Lohrey.

POST 198 DISPLAY



In an attempt to recruit new members, working with Premier Community Bank in Marion, Post 198 set up a display in their lobby showing benefits to belonging to The American Legion and contacts and forms for anyone interested. Premier donated the space for the month as part of their community service.

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS



Nancy Rivera, Post 477 member and 2024 Membership Chair, with Department Commander, Karl Stuvengen and Membership Awards.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

"A BETTER KIND OF HAPPINESS"



Dennis Jaeger
Department
Chaplain

It is not for us to edit the message of the Bible. It is for us as Christians to simply deliver it.

Imagine if a doctor neglected to deliver bad news about test results because it might make the patient uncomfortable. That would be ridiculous. A doctor’s job is to diagnose the problem and then recommend a course of action. A doctor’s job is to save lives.

In the same way, we have to tell people the truth about their real condition before God and point them to God as the only solution. However, in our culture of moral relativism, this rubs a lot of people the wrong way.

Yet according to God Himself, the primary reason that people don’t believe in Him is they hate the light. They want to sin in the darkness, and so they stay away from the light so their sins won’t be exposed (see John 3:20). Speaking to the prophet Ezekiel, God said, “I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live.” (Ezekiel 33:11 NLT).

And 2 Peter 3:9 tells us, “The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.” (NLT).

God longs for fellowship with us, for friendship with us. Isaiah 1:18 says, “‘Come now, let’s settle this,’ says the Lord. ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool.’” (NLT).

Going all the way back to the Garden of Eden, when our first parents ate the forbidden fruit, the voice of God was crying out, “Where are you?” (Genesis 3:9 NLT). That is God’s heart toward all of us. “Where are you? I love you.”

God is compassionate. God loves all of humanity. And God wants people to be saved. And if someone really is seeking the truth, they will find their way to God. God says, “If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.” (Jeremiah 29:13 NLT).

Let’s remember that God loves us, and God loves everyone. And as His children, we need to care about unbelievers and love them as well.

“My husband stepped out for some fresh air, then I heard a loud thud ...

We were rushed to the hospital where he was diagnosed with broken bones and two spinal obstructions.”

Fortunately, we had purchased the Legionnaire Emergency Assistance Plus® (EA+®) plan for our travels!

We were in London, and after 2 hospitals and 39 days in a rehab facility, Michael was released to travel and EA+ coordinated our



return. They provided a nurse escort to monitor Michael on the trip home, an ambulance to the airport, then to the rehabilitation facility so Michael could continue his recovery.

Thank you, EA+! You gave me the freedom to focus on Michael and the relief of not having to make all the arrangements myself.

- Julie & Michael
North Carolina



From Your
American
Legion
Department

Don't travel another mile without learning more about how EA+ can help you. Call 1-888-293-4008 today!

SUPER ONE DONATION



Post 435 received a donation from Super One Stores in Superior. Pictured left to right are Joel Misfeldt, (Assistant Store Manager at Super One at the East End in Superior, WI) handing a check for \$6,278.73 to Commander Butch Liebaert, Commander of Post 435. Liebaert thanked the Super One Stores in Superior for their donation to the Post. He also stated that the donation will help the different programs they have to help Veterans in the area.

POST 60 HOSTS 17-Y-O TOURNAMENT

Post 60 hosted the 17-year-old Legion Baseball Tournament at Kimberly, July 26 – 30.

American Legion Post 60 of Kimberly presented the National Colors. Color Guard members (at top) from left to right, Commander Richard Staedt, Randy Kaminski, Larry Gerrits and Roger Zwiers.

Post 60 members collected the entrance fee from the public attending the games on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Bottom photo, left to right standing are, Bruce Siebers, Post 60; Steve Baumann, Randy Kaminske & Steven Gaffney, SAL; seated are Louis Thein, Brad Siebers and Roger Zwiers, Post 60.



DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Julie Muhle
Department Adjutant

Does your post do something amazing that you think other posts would benefit from? Wondering how to get that word out? You can go to legiontown.org and share your story! Doing a story is easy! Once at legiontown.org,

click on the category that best fits your story, fill out the form and submit it! You can go to the same site to see what other posts around the country are doing.

Your post can also honor a member or loved one who served by placing memoriam on the National website. You can go to legion.org/honor/memoriam. You will need to sign in to place memoriam.

Is your previous team planning a reunion and would like to have enough time to get the old gang together? You can go legion.org/reunions/submit. These are published free of charge.

Do you have a story to tell but don't know where to do so? You can go to legion.org/yourwords/stories and share your story with everyone! Categories are books, film/documentary, music, personal experiences, poetry and visual arts. There are many stories you can read and see if it prompts the storyteller in you to share your experiences!

NEW OFFICERS FOR POST 534 MCFARLAND

New officers of American Legion Post 534 McFarland: Commander Cory Gessler, First Vice – Aaron Holland, Second Vice – Ian Caterall, Adjutant – Nate Weier, Finance – Trish Howen, Service Office – Mike Brennan, Chaplain – Dale Sankey, Historian – Mike Meyers, Sgt.-at-Arms – Mike Verdico, Nick Dekkard, Steve Halvorson, and Jim Sommers.



POST 477 IS AT 100%



Dean Koenig, Post 477 member and Past Manitowoc County Commander, with the 100% County Commander Award.



WDVA SECRETARY

James Bond
WDVA Secretary-designee

Greetings Legionnaires and Auxiliaries! In the year and a half since Governor Evers appointed me to serve as Secretary of WDVA, my top priority has been to strengthen relationships with Veteran advocates like The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin. By

working together with others, WDVA can better serve the needs of Wisconsin Veterans and their families. One of the ways I am strengthening relationships is by taking every opportunity to meet with the people doing the boots-on-the-ground work.

I'm happy to report that I reached an important milestone in August. I have now traveled to every one of Wisconsin's 72 counties and 11 tribes to personally consult with the state's 83 County and Tribal Veterans Service Offices. CVSOs and TVSOs are on the front lines advocating for Veterans in their communities and connecting Veterans and their families with federal and state benefits.

During my visits, I had an opportunity to express my gratitude to the hardworking men and women in our CVSOs and TVSOs. I thanked them for welcoming me into their offices and sharing their challenges and successes in supporting Veterans. And I thanked them for all the work they do on behalf of Veterans.

Simply put, WDVA cannot do this alone, we rely on the help of all our partners. Being good partners takes work. I appreciate everyone's efforts to keep these lines of communication open and look forward to even more collaboration in meeting the challenges that face our state's Veterans.

So, I will finish by saying thank you to Wisconsin's American Legion, for working alongside WDVA as we make a difference in the lives of so many Veterans and families in our state!

Yours in Service,
James Bond, Secretary-designee
Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

Need help? Find your local TVSO or CVSO by visiting <https://wicvso.org/locate-your-cvso-tvso/#Marathon> #CVSO #TVSO #VeteranAssistance #WisVets #WisVetsWomen @WICVSO



POST 214 FLAG DISPOSAL CEREMONY

Post 214 conducted a flag disposal ceremony on July 23. Pictured from left are: Jerry King, Bill and Rodney Weinbrenner, Dave Heins and Don Davis.

FARM TECH DAYS CEREMONY IN CADOTT



Past Department Vice Commander Harry Bauer participated in the POW/MIA ceremony at Farm Technology Days in Cadott.

ELLENBECKER VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY 2024

Pewaukee Post 71 posted the Colors at the 4th annual Ellenbecker Veterans Appreciation Day on September 5.





POST 98 PERFORMS 4TH FLAG DISPOSAL

On Sunday, August 11, the 4th annual Flag Disposal Ceremony was held at Scoutland. We thought it would be a good idea to get American Legion members and the Scout Troop together for this meaningful event. Anderson-Thomson Post 98 in Cumberland has chartered this troop since 1924, making this our 100th year.

This year we disposed of 950 flags, most which are from the nine cemeteries in our area. There are some flags from private homes, public buildings and coffin flags.

This year we were honored to have Scouts Riley Muench and Harrison Ruppel start the flag disposal ceremony with the disposal of Irv Talbot's funeral flag. This was a 48-star flag. Irv served as Commander of the Anderson-Thomson Post 98 in

Cumberland from 1944-1945.

Legion Honor Guard Commander Mike Nolan and other members of the Honor Guard were on hand as well, representing the Legion Honor Guard. We dispose of these flags respectfully by burning them. The Boy and Girl Scouts from Troop 24 dispose the flags. Afterward, the scouts get a chance to meet the Legion Honor Guard and fire blanks from their M-1 rifles.

Our Legion Commander Dennis Free said this is the best flag disposal that he has attended. If you have a flag to dispose of, you can drop it off at the American Legion Post in Cumberland or at the Veterans Service Office in Barron.

Sincerely,
Mark Mauer
Anderson-Thomson Post 98



AMERICAN LEGION POST 501 AWARDS \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS TO TWO STUDENTS

At the August 14 Member Meeting, Isabella Garza and Grace Bonnell were each awarded \$500 Scholarships by Post 501. Immediate members (children and grandchildren) of Post 501 members qualify to be considered for this award.

AT FAR LEFT: Grace Bonnell is pursuing a degree in Accounting and plans to enter that field. She currently attends Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN. Cdr. Scalissi, Grace Bonnell and her mother hold a large facsimile of the scholarship check.

AT LEFT: Cdr. Scalissi, Isabella Garza and Lt. Col. Garza hold a large facsimile of her scholarship check. Isabella Garza is currently pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering at Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI.



"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

THREE WEEKS LEFT OF CAMP



Jim Klement
Camp American Legion Director

As I write this article, we have three weeks left of Camp season. This has been a great season with many improvements and plans being made for the future. Here is a summary of some of the improvements at camp.

One of the best improvements that we had to camp this year was the addition of the new Esselman Cabin. This is a beautiful duplex that can easily house a family of five in each side. This cabin was made possible by many posts and organizations with donations.

Another great improvement is the long-awaited crosswalk. This was a huge safety concern for years and now is finally completed. The crosswalk now has moved to the east on top of the hill that allows for a great improvement of line of sight. Now you can see all the vehicles that are approaching and they can see you.

The Camp store is finally up and running this year. It is in a perfect location and turned out great. We had three different organizations in Rhinelander that donated the entire cost of the

ADA walkway and the landscaping. The only problem with the store is that I cannot keep the shelves stocked.

Camp's at-risk septic system has been replaced and is in full working order. This improvement, while not glamorous, was a definite need and will hopefully last us for many decades to come.

Camp American Legion's 100-year anniversary, the date has been set for June 14, 2025. Please mark your calendars for this historic event. With any event, we will need support staff. If you are interested in helping, please give me a call. We will be looking for parking attendants, help in the kitchen and many other areas.

Camp American Legion is the best program that the Wisconsin American Legion has, although I might be biased. We need to evolve as necessary to best serve our Veterans and with the improvements and proper planning we will make it to another 100 years.

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

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

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

CELEBRATING
100
YEARS OF SERVICE
TO WISCONSIN VETERANS

FOOD AND DRINKS PROVIDED
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, CAMP TOURS

SATURDAY
14 JUNE 2025
11AM - 7PM

8529 County Road D
Lake Tomahawk, WI 54539

REGIONAL 5 BASEBALL



Watertown hosted the Wisconsin Regional 5 tournament recently. The post's color guard presented the colors. Post 189 Adjutant Kirk Grill threw out one of the first pitches.



POST 538 HONOR GUARD

We would like to share the passing of one of our members, Ronald Papham. He was laid to rest on August 3. He was honored by both Robinson Legion Post 538 and VFW Post 3392. In total there were 32 personnel in the Honor Guard.

Submitted by Shawn Siebold.

CHIPPEWA FALLS VH VISIT



Department Commander Jim Johnson and other Wisconsin American Legion members visited the Chippewa Falls Veterans Home.

POPPIES AND RACING SAUSAGES



Curtiss Peck received extra visibility while members of Harley-Davidson Post 400 accepted donations for poppies outside American Family Field prior to the Brewers game against the Cincinnati Reds in August.



Loki

LOKI'S CORNER

Loki says:

If you update a member status to deceased in MyLegion, there is no need to notify Legion Headquarters. Your MyLegion entry will automatically notify Legion staff and the member's name will appear in the Last Bugle section of The Badger Legionnaire.

Be The One!



Julie Muhle
Department
Adjutant

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP

Did you know a Post Membership Plan exists? It was created two years ago when Wisconsin American Legion leadership attended the National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis. Everyone was so eager to share what they learned that they wanted to capture their thoughts in a living document. Hence, began the Post Membership Plan, a guide to help your post be successful. Many of the items documented are from posts who regularly achieve memberships of 100%+. Here are some posts so if you have some questions, you can reach out to the Commanders and ask what they do. Asking questions prevents "postization" or doing what you always do expecting different results – the definition of insanity.

River Falls Post 121 has had All-Time High years for the past 8 years. This post has over 600 members! Cushing Post 269 has had All-Time High years for the past 9+ years. This post has over 80 members through their continual growth. St. Nazianz Post 477 is also a growing post that has doubled their membership over the past two years to 80+ members.

Each edition of the Badger Legionnaire, we will go through a little more of the plan. The plan can be found at <https://wilegion.org/membership-forms-%26-info-1>.



Michelle Adams
Department
Historian

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

The 105th American Legion National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, was an action-packed event. It was with great pride in Wisconsin's National Commander Dan Seehafer in charge, that the National Convention ran with great attention to detail and heartfelt passion for our mission. The transition from Commander Seehafer to Commander LaCoursiere was seamless, with a focus on continuing the initiatives of Be The One and legislative priorities. To access the convention speeches, visit www.legion.org. Scroll to the bottom of the first page, under programs, click on National Convention. You will find the videos of speeches given at the convention. My favorite speech was from Lt. Gen. Russel Honore, USA (Ret), former commander, Joint Task Force Katrina. It was outstanding!!

A central theme throughout the convention was buddy checks, camaraderie, and recognition. As Department Historian, this gave me an idea. As a member of the American Legion, we have formed many friendships, but how much do we know of each other's service story? I would like to offer this suggestion: submit your military history to me. It can be anything you would like to offer, a fun story or your various duty assignments. I will, in turn, collect these submissions and put them in book form. Simply send your information to majfadams@earthlink.net. Last year, a legionnaire shared with me his story. He didn't feel worthy of recognition of service because he only served one year. He then told me that he had been shot in action and had to return home. I can only hope that I adequately expressed the tremendous sacrifice he made to our country. As a former reservist, I can appreciate the tendency to minimize one's contribution. We truly need to change our thinking. Every contribution was vital to our country's strength of force. Please trust our future generations to appreciate the privilege of hearing your story. While I am proud of my service as an Army Dental Technician, my pride lies with my daughters. Both graduated from the Merchant Marine Academy. One is fulfilling her obligation with the Navy IRR and the other is active duty Coast Guard. My family has served in every branch of service. My grandfather was one of the first five POWs from WWI (his story is on display at the Milwaukee War Memorial), my uncle served in WWII, my dear father was a Korean War Vet, my other uncles and cousins served in Vietnam, and my sister and I served during the Cold War. Whether large or small, any account of your story is important! We will be honored to receive it. It is vital to have a historical account of your service, for it demonstrates to our youth the meaning of sacrifice for our patriotic duty. Perhaps, in hearing my family history, my daughters were inspired to service. In the words of George Washington, "There is nothing nobler than risking your life for your country." We did that, and we should be humbly proud to proclaim it.



Legion member Randy Kuck and USS Constitution Commander Crystal Schaefer.

USS CONSTITUTION COMMANDER HAS ROOTS IN WISCONSIN

Crystal Schaefer, the niece of Randy Kuck, member of the Wisconsin American Legion Post 4 in Athens, is the Commander of the USS Constitution. Crystal is the daughter of Randy's wife's brother, Michael Schaefer, of Medford, Wisconsin. Randy and his family took a trip with a large number of other relatives to Boston to participate in the Change of Command on June 21, 2024. Commander Schaefer also celebrated her birthday the day before assuming command. She is the 78th Commanding Officer of the USS Constitution and only the second female commander of this famous ship. Crystal will be the commander for the next two years and then turn the command over to the next honored individual.

Commander Schaefer has been a member of The American Legion for the last 7-8 years along with her uncles, Randall Kuck and Mike Seliger. Commander Schaefer has been in the Navy for 19 years and has not decided what she will do after her command of Old Ironsides is over.

The Last Bugle



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

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------|--|--|
| 3 Antigo | | | |
| Gerald L. Weix | WWII | | |
| 6 Stevens Point | | | |
| John S. Pioro | WWII | | |
| Chester C. Zelinski | K | | |
| Joseph Krutziski | V | | |
| 9 Wisconsin Rapids | | | |
| Elmer N. Loechler | K | | |
| James Reinolt | V | | |
| Ronald E. Fregien | V | | |
| Rodney Dorski | K | | |
| Leroy G. Bottensek | K | | |
| 10 Wausau | | | |
| Ken Rohmeyer | V | | |
| Roland Rasmussen | V | | |
| Gary W. Zumann | V | | |
| Richard Hubert | V | | |
| Raymond C. Kuehlmann | K | | |
| 11 Green Bay | | | |
| Richard Hayward | V | | |
| Patrick Biersteker | K | | |
| 12 Spooner | | | |
| Robert M. Ostenson | K | | |
| Richard H. Tews | K | | |
| 13 Richland Center | | | |
| William S. McCorkle | V | | |
| James F. Patch | V | | |
| Arvin G. Brown | V | | |
| Dennis M. Fry Sr. | V | | |
| Charles R. Bee | V | | |
| 16 Cudahy | | | |
| Denis Heise | V | | |
| 17 Arcadia | | | |
| Roland C. Haines | K | | |
| 20 Waterford | | | |
| Gordon O. Nelson | V | | |
| 26 Baraboo | | | |
| Kenneth M. Dolan | V | | |
| Allen J. Paschen | WWII | | |
| Jerry Kinnamon | V | | |
| Robert A. Madland | V | | |
| Anthony J. Kujawa | V | | |
| 29 Kewaunee | | | |
| Frank Laddie | V | | |
| 33 Neenah | | | |
| Alan L. Schultz | V | | |
| Robert R. Noe | V | | |
| Dennis W. Burr | V | | |
| William Jensen | K | | |
| 35 Evansville | | | |
| Paul E. Baltzer Jr. | K | | |
| 36 West Bend | | | |
| Eugene F. Traut | K | | |
| 38 Appleton | | | |
| Peter L. Ziebell | P | | |
| John Protheroe | V | | |
| Dick Kerrigan | K | | |
| Donald F. Houdek | WWII | | |
| William J. Remter | K | | |
| Hobert L. Crouch | V | | |
| Vincent C. Berg | V | | |
| 39 Marinette | | | |
| James F. Berman | WWII | | |
| Lawrence J. Mouty | K | | |
| Kenneth H. Nischke | K | | |
| Bruce J. Barrette | V | | |
| Tom Harbick | V | | |
| Eugene McElroy | V | | |
| Robert Stevens | V | | |
| 40 Bangor | | | |
| Leland Kastenschmidt | K | | |
| Gregory H. Peterson | V | | |
| Allen A. Aichele | V | | |
| 42 Platteville | | | |
| Harold E. Bethke | WWII | | |
| 46 Merrill | | | |
| John P. Sczygalski | V | | |
| 47 Portage | | | |
| Roland L. Maum | V | | |
| 48 Beloit | | | |
| Gerald F. Buckley | K | | |
| Richard H. Crary | K | | |
| 52 La Crosse | | | |
| Paul A. Harris | V | | |
| Jack L. Turner | V | | |
| Olav J. Espenes | V | | |
| Roger D. Komperud | V | | |
| Mark V. Connelly, MD | V | | |
| Earl Steffen | V | | |
| Donald E. Wiggert | K | | |
| Don Wavra | V | | |
| Garold W. Buchholtz | V | | |
| William T. Riley | V | | |
| Don E. Freagon | WWII | | |
| Richard J. Poellinger | K | | |
| Walter A. Zube | K | | |
| 53 Eau Claire | | | |
| Ken Boigenzahn | V | | |
| Robert L. Wheeler | K | | |
| 54 Marshfield | | | |
| Wayne A. Rasmussen | V | | |
| Richard R. Lopes | K | | |
| Robert Hoffman | V | | |
| 111 Somerset | | | |
| Robert J. Schmoedel | V | | |
| 116 Coon Valley | | | |
| George L. Forman | V | | |
| John R. Wenzel | K | | |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|------|--|--|
| 58 Hurley | | | |
| Louis F. Pretti | V | | |
| 59 Stoughton | | | |
| John A. Benedict | V | | |
| Dolly Bailey | V | | |
| 63 Clintonville | | | |
| Leland L. Laird | V | | |
| Frederick L. Feyen | V | | |
| 66 Athelstane-Silvercliff | | | |
| Donald A. Halvorson | WWII | | |
| 69 Mayville | | | |
| Donald W. Pugh | K | | |
| 70 Oshkosh | | | |
| Kenneth O. Girens | V | | |
| Elmer Frank | WWII | | |
| 71 Pewaukee | | | |
| Thomas B. Della | K | | |
| Dallas Kobriger | WWII | | |
| David G. Erbstoesser | V | | |
| 72 Sturgeon Bay | | | |
| Charles C. Chouinard | K | | |
| 73 Neillsville | | | |
| Donald Pflughoeft | K | | |
| Larry L. Tessman | V | | |
| Kenneth L. Drost | K | | |
| Don Hayward | V | | |
| Terry Hauge | V | | |
| 74 Oconto | | | |
| Charles A. Kerr | V | | |
| 75 Fond du Lac | | | |
| Paul A. Mittelsteadt | K | | |
| 77 Chippewa Falls | | | |
| William McClquham | K | | |
| Gary S. Close | V | | |
| 80 New Richmond | | | |
| Truman Everson | K | | |
| Howard M. Hanson | V | | |
| 82 Port Washington | | | |
| Peter Vanderhoof | V | | |
| 83 Sheboygan | | | |
| Eric Wagner | V | | |
| 88 Manitowoc | | | |
| Thomas J. Davis | V | | |
| Leonard P. Reindl | V | | |
| 89 Minocqua | | | |
| Edward J. Boziel | K | | |
| Roger Kamper | K | | |
| Kenneth R. Pride | V | | |
| 90 Ashland | | | |
| Enrique A. Africano | GWOT | | |
| Richard J. Gierzak | V | | |
| Robert Ochsenauber | K | | |
| 91 Oconomowoc | | | |
| Gerald Yauck | V | | |
| Frederick R. Luedke | K | | |
| John Porubsky | K | | |
| Michael J. Matteson | V | | |
| 94 Crandon | | | |
| Homer D. Rosa | WWII | | |
| William Bochte | V | | |
| James D. Gunderson Sr. | V | | |
| Gary Reich | V | | |
| 98 Cumberland | | | |
| Gerald C. Tempesta | K | | |
| Roger G. Gantner | V | | |
| Matt B. Arnes | V | | |
| 102 Walworth | | | |
| James R. Nelson | K | | |
| 105 Shullsburg | | | |
| Melvin B. Wedige | K | | |
| 108 Clear Lake | | | |
| Dennis D. Johnson | V | | |
| Gordon J. Checki | WWII | | |
| 109 Lancaster | | | |
| James L. Meyer | V | | |
| Raymond W. Stanfley | V | | |
| Richard R. Lopes | K | | |
| Robert Hoffman | V | | |
| 111 Somerset | | | |
| Robert J. Schmoedel | V | | |
| 116 Coon Valley | | | |
| Roger Strangstalien | K | | |
| Everett Olson | V | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------|--|--|
| 121 River Falls | | | |
| Michael L. Igo | V | | |
| Mel Germanson | K | | |
| 124 New Holstein | | | |
| Norman R. Dins | WWII | | |
| Francis J. Lafrombois | K | | |
| 126 Brillion | | | |
| Robert J. Schaefer | V | | |
| Donald L. Schmelter | WWII | | |
| Zane C. Zander | V | | |
| 133 Camp Douglas | | | |
| William Guess | V | | |
| 138 Viroqua | | | |
| Peder J. Swanson | V | | |
| 139 Coloma | | | |
| David F. Hammersly | V | | |
| 143 St. Croix Falls | | | |
| Wilbur McGroarty | V | | |
| Ronald B. Sutliff | K | | |
| 146 Beaver Dam | | | |
| David Broome | V | | |
| David L. Biel | V | | |
| 147 Medford | | | |
| Robert Schmeiser | K | | |
| Steven J. Bauer | G/L | | |
| 151 Madison | | | |
| Dennis A. Rynes | K | | |
| John D. Schmelzer | V | | |
| 152 Menasha | | | |
| Dennis Manderfield | K | | |
| John Strebe | K | | |
| 154 Mondovi | | | |
| Garnold Labair | V | | |
| 155 Westby | | | |
| Truman Everson | K | | |
| Howard M. Hanson | V | | |
| 156 North Fond du Lac | | | |
| John Kulow | V | | |
| 164 Jefferson | | | |
| Kenneth G. Heitz | K | | |
| 165 Two Rivers | | | |
| Alvin B. Hanson | K | | |
| Kenneth K. Cayemberg | WWII | | |
| 168 Glenwood City | | | |
| Gerald Keeley | V | | |
| Donald J. Leier | K | | |
| 169 Amery | | | |
| Milton A. Johnson | WWII | | |
| 171 Union Grove | | | |
| Greg R. Lemieux | V | | |
| Frank A. Paulich | V | | |
| 172 North Freedom | | | |
| Thomas H. Snyder | V | | |
| 180 Milwaukee | | | |
| Theodore R. Somers | V | | |
| 181 Durand | | | |
| Norbert J. Stewart | V | | |
| 183 Genoa City | | | |
| Edward Copeland III | V | | |
| 186 Independence | | | |
| James J. Klimek | V | | |
| 187 Wisconsin Dells | | | |
| Casimir J. Piwonski | V | | |
| 188 East Troy | | | |
| Russell A. Gale | K | | |
| Edward L. Whipp | V | | |
| 189 Watertown | | | |
| Gerald J. Dricken | K | | |
| Dennis D. Johnson | V | | |
| Gordon J. Checki | WWII | | |
| 189 Watertown | | | |
| James L. Meyer | V | | |
| 198 Marion | | | |
| Elmer Hehner | K | | |
| 200 Black River Falls | | | |
| Allan V. Hostrawser | V | | |
| 204 Ellsworth | | | |
| James W. Hines | K | | |
| James Gutting | K | | |
| 205 Janesville | | | |
| Norbert R. Danczyk | G/L | | |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------|--|--|
| Thomas Roan | V | | |
| Wiley J. Kessinger | WWII | | |
| Stephen Schuler | V | | |
| Robert A. Holtz | V | | |
| 206 Wonewoc | | | |
| Lloyd A. Byington | K | | |
| 208 Rio | | | |
| Scott Price | V | | |
| Charles W. Heath | K | | |
| 212 Barron | | | |
| Charles W. Sandmann | V | | |
| 214 Darlington | | | |
| David J. Breunig | V | | |
| 216 Lodi | | | |
| Richard L. Hillestad | V | | |
| Vernon Steinbach | V | | |
| 218 Hayward | | | |
| William E. Koivisto | V | | |
| 220 Soldiers Grove | | | |
| Michael W. McCormick | V | | |
| 223 Hillsboro | | | |
| Arnold Subera | V | | |
| 224 Alma | | | |
| Kenneth J. Wald | K | | |
| Allen W. Kochenderfer | V | | |
| 236 Algoma | | | |
| David E. Meyer | K | | |
| James J. Miller | V | | |
| Thomas Seidl | V | | |
| 238 Greenwood | | | |
| Karen S. Koepf | V | | |
| 240 Baldwin | | | |
| Earl E. Jacot | K | | |
| 243 Plymouth | | | |
| Donald M. Blake | K | | |
| William Buelter | V | | |
| 244 Westfield | | | |
| Donald H. Goodhue | K | | |
| 245 Cross Plains | | | |
| Dennis A. Powell | V | | |
| 249 Frederic | | | |
| Dale A. Erickson | K | | |
| 250 Adams | | | |
| Carl Anderson | V | | |
| James Gregory | V | | |
| 253 Spring Green | | | |
| Paul J. Greisen | V | | |
| 255 Luck | | | |
| Robert Kreutzian | K | | |
| Richard C. Coen | V | | |
| Robert L. Clifton | V | | |
| 258 Little Chute | | | |
| Edmond P. Spaeth | K | | |
| Roman Salm | V | | |
| Joseph Sanderfoot | V | | |
| Richard H. Alberts | V | | |
| 262 Luxemburg | | | |
| John J. Arendt | V | | |
| 263 New London | | | |
| Robert J. Marcks | K | | |
| Ivan J. Gruetzmacher | V | | |
| 268 Bruce | | | |
| John R. Nagel | V | | |
| Rodney Keith | K | | |
| 269 Cushing | | | |
| James A. Christensen | V | | |
| Richard Stage | G/L | | |
| 271 Poynette | | | |
| John F. Reddeman | V | | |
| 272 Butternut | | | |
| Geneva Kilger | WWII | | |
| Herman R. Wartgow | WWII | | |
| 273 Grand Marsh | | | |
| Dean R. Zink | V | | |
| 277 Necedah | | | |
| Neal B. Carter | V | | |
| 269 Cushing | | | |
| James A. Christensen | V | | |
| Richard Stage | G/L | | |
| 271 Poynette | | | |
| John F. Reddeman | V | | |
| 272 Butternut | | | |
| Geneva Kilger | WWII | | |
| Herman R. Wartgow | WWII | | |
| 273 Grand Marsh | | | |
| Dean R. Zink | V | | |
| 277 Necedah | | | |
| Neal B. Carter | V | | |
| Norman Pech | K | | |
| Timothy E. Daley | V | | |
| 278 Balsam Lake | | | |
| Andrea High | P | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------|--|--|
| 280 Coleman | | | |
| Duane J. Krzewina | V | | |
| Jack A. Brazeau | PG | | |
| 282 Markesan | | | |
| Orville Swanson Jr. | K | | |
| 283 Suring | | | |
| George S. Nelson | K | | |
| Fred Sleeter | V | | |
| 284 Holmes | | | |
| James J. Shimshak | V | | |
| Kenneth L. Davis | V | | |
| Charles A. Spiker | V | | |
| 286 Oostburg | | | |
| Melvin D. Wensink | K | | |
| 288 Cedarburg | | | |
| Robert G. Zieger Jr. | V | | |
| 293 Silver Lake | | | |
| David Beix | V | | |
| 294 Hartland | | | |
| John M. Dalton | V | | |
| Donald W. Fields | V | | |
| Robert W. Brown | WWII | | |
| James H. Block | V | | |
| 295 Bloomer | | | |
| John B. Norris | K | | |
| Gary P. Hurt | V | | |
| 299 Hales Corners | | | |
| James W. Helminski | V | | |
| Steve Geboy | V | | |
| 303 Winter | | | |
| Ray W. Caldwell | V | | |
| Richard J. Perkins | V | | |
| 306 Green Lake | | | |
| Henry M. Manzer | V | | |
| 310 Racine | | | |
| Philip W. Cote | V | | |
| 312 Peshtigo | | | |
| David Springer | V | | |
| 314 Boyceville | | | |
| Terrance C. Engeman | V | | |
| 316 Sheldon | | | |
| Harold Winingar | V | | |
| 318 Lake Tomahawk | | | |
| Mark Kramer | V | | |
| James A. Rueter Sr. | K | | |
| Raymond H. Von Bober II | V | | |
| Gregg J | | | |

WISCONSIN



October 2024

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

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www.amlegionauxwi.org

MEMBERSHIP

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2025 Membership Totals – 27.19%



| District | Goal % |
|----------|--------|
| 4 | 40.21% |
| 5 | 34.27% |
| 9 | 32.64% |
| 3 | 31.73% |
| 2 | 31.38% |
| 6 | 26.16% |
| 7 | 25.10% |
| 1 | 23.97% |
| 11 | 22.99% |
| 10 | 22.04% |
| 8 | 20.92% |
| 12 | 19.78% |

(as of 9/17/2024)

Membership is up and running! By keeping our focus on serving our Veterans, military and each other from the depths of our hearts, our Department goal of 100% membership will be easy to achieve. Membership truly is the foundation for the continued life of our organization, and everyone plays an important role.

Thank you to everyone who has renewed early, especially all officers who were asked to take the lead. A big congratulations to the Mosinee Unit in the 8th District. They are the first unit to join the 100% Club! Membership in the 100% Club is free and open to any unit regardless of size. Joining is easy...just obtain 100% or more in membership and your unit can become an official member of the 100% Club, too. *Don't wait...join today!*

As of September 18, the national Division report shows Wisconsin is in the lead in Central Division and second place in the nation with 27.19% processed. Let's keep the momentum going!

CENTRAL DIVISION

| Department | Total | Goal | % of Goal |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Wisconsin | 4,490 | 16,514 | 27.19% |
| Iowa | 3,942 | 17,857 | 22.08% |
| Indiana | 7,061 | 40,119 | 17.60% |
| Missouri | 1,349 | 8,114 | 16.63% |
| West Virginia | 724 | 4,923 | 14.71% |
| Illinois | 2,881 | 20,083 | 14.35% |
| Kansas | 1,253 | 9,189 | 13.64% |
| Ohio | 4,084 | 34,719 | 11.76% |
| Michigan | 2,529 | 28,792 | 8.78% |
| Total | 28,313 | 180,310 | 15.70% |

National has mailed out renewal notices to all senior members who did not have their 2025 dues processed as of August 9. However, you do not have to use a paper renewal notice to renew your membership. There are two other effortless ways to renew:

- Call National at 317-569-4570 (Mon-Fri 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CST) and use your credit/debit card over the phone while talking to a live person. You'll immediately receive an email confirmation and National will mail your ID card. *Bonus: You can renew multiple memberships at once!*

- Create a login ID at www.ALAFORVeterans.org and use your credit/debit card online. *Bonus: Once you create a login ID you will have access to valuable member information on programs, benefits and more!*

To date, we have had over 700 members pay their dues using a credit/debit card through National! Members are finding that using a credit card is convenient, secure and easier than ever before. Why not give it a try?

The future of The American Legion Auxiliary and continuation of our great works depends on our ability to recruit and retain members. While members of The American Legion Family are individually unique, collectively we are a multimillion-member powerhouse of caring advocates dedicated to service.

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION

Wisconsin units honored some of their older members for supporting veterans, military, youth and their communities throughout the years.



ABOVE: Marian Barber-Johnson recently celebrated her 97th birthday and was presented a Continuous Member Certificate for her 69 years of service by June Dopkins, President of Webster Unit 96. Thank you, Marian, for your years of service!



ABOVE: Ruby Radke, 42-year member of Otis Taylor Unit 96 in Webster, recently turned 104. Ruby always has a great smile and enjoys an opportunity to wear her ALA Vest. Happy 104th Birthday, Ruby! BELOW: S/Sgt Henry F. Gumm Unit 486 in Jackson celebrated Doris Schulties' birthday. Doris Schulties is seated in front, (L-R): Shelley Baertlein, Teri McElroy, Mary Rofritz, Sue Bliese, Sally Ollinger, Donna King, Pat Herbst, Mary Rogge, and Betty Clement. Happy Birthday to Doris, who turned 100 years young on July 29!



2025 ALA DAILY SWEEPSTAKES

- 2025 Daily Sweepstakes entry forms have been mailed. If you want additional entry forms, please call department headquarters. Only original entry forms will be accepted.
- Daily prizes are \$15. Sunday prizes are \$25. One \$500 prize each month.
- The last day to enter is December 31, 2024.
- Official sweepstakes rules are posted on the department website.

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

THANK YOU to everyone who already responded.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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

Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

"That is the definition of faith – acceptance of that which we imagine to be true, that which we cannot prove." – Dan Brown

What does "faith" mean to you? Does your faith allow you to have hope, inspire you, allow you to do difficult things? What challenges your faith?

I believe everything happens for a reason and is all part of "God's Plan" for each of us. Our faith in ourselves, those around us, or our country may be challenged by some of the events that take place around us. There is both good and evil in the world and we do not always have control over some of the things that happen, but we do have control over how we react to these things.

We are blessed to live in a country where we have freedoms such as the right to vote, where we can decide who we want to hold public offices. In a world where there is much turmoil and division, we can put our faith in God to see us through these trying times. We can put our faith and thanks in those who have and continue to fight for and defend our freedoms and our right to vote.

As the autumn season is upon us, we can look around at the earth as crops are harvested and the fields and gardens are prepared for the winter season. We can have faith that next spring the crops and flowers will grow, bloom and produce again. I believe that it is through our faith in God and his plan for us that we can find hope and faith in the future.

I am putting together a prayer book for President Becky Mueller and need help from all of you. Please send me prayers, poems or inspirational writings to add to her book. They can be original or from another source (please name the author). Please include your name and unit number. You can send by email (djensen20@gmail.com) or mail to me at: Donna Jensen, 6936 N. 86th St., Milwaukee, WI 53224.

Music:

"We Walk By Faith"

by Henry Alford (1844)

We walk by faith, and not by sight,
 No gracious words we hear.
 Of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
 But we believe him near.

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

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

The 2024 American Legion Auxiliary National Convention was held in New Orleans, Louisiana. Wisconsin members received several national awards as listed below. Congratulations to the award winners and thanks for making Wisconsin proud!

Trish Ward of Kansas was installed as National President for 2024-2025. Her theme for the year is Leading the Way. Since President Ward has seen units struggle with membership and leadership capacity for many years, she is focusing efforts to reinvigorate our organization through membership – from the ground up. Her special

project is the ALA Foundation's Veterans Project Fund, which awards grants to tax-exempt ALA units to support projects that meet a one-time, new need benefiting multiple Veterans, military and their families. Donations may be made through department headquarters using a Poppy Fund Suggested Donation form located on the department website. James A. LaCoursiere Jr. of Connecticut was elected National Commander of The American Legion and Joseph Navarrete of New Mexico was elected Sons of The American Legion National Commander.

National Headquarters mailed membership renewal notices in mid-September. You may have received a renewal notice even though you recently paid your dues. National pulled the mailing list in early August so things may have crossed in the mail. If you believe you received a notice in error, please contact your unit membership chairman to

confirm your dues were forwarded to department headquarters for processing.

Members may pay their dues through their unit, online at www.ALAforVeterans.org, or over the phone. You can easily pay for multiple family members at one time or pay for lapsed membership years if you pay by phone. Please call national headquarters at 317-569-4570, Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm (Central Time) to pay by phone. Thank you to everyone who already renewed their 2025 dues!

2025 sweepstakes forms were mailed to current ALA members at the end of August. Proceeds stay in Wisconsin, for Wisconsin programs, but original entry forms must be returned by December 31 to be eligible for the drawings. If you would like more entry forms, please contact Department Headquarters at 608-745-0124. Thank you in advance for your support!

2023-2024 NATIONAL AWARDS

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin received the following awards or acknowledgements for the 2023-2024 administrative year during the 2024 National Convention:

AMERICANISM

Dorothy Pearl Award - Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program in Central Division
 Van Eills-Schanen Unit 82
 Port Washington ~ District 2
 Diane Burkhalter, Unit President

EDUCATION

Best Department Education Program in Central Division
 Department of Wisconsin
 Diane Weggen, Department Chairman

HISTORIAN

Best Department History in Central Division
 Department of Wisconsin
 Mary Petrie, Department Chairman

Toomey Award - Overall Best Department History
 Department of Wisconsin
 Mary Petrie, Department Chairman

LEADERSHIP

Department Unit Member of the Year
 Terry Giles
 Brask-Fossum-Janke Unit 185, Grantsburg
 ~ District 12

MEMBERSHIP

Units that reached 100% of their 2024 membership goal by 1/31/2024:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Birchwood Unit 379 | Milwaukee Unit 448 |
| Black River Falls Unit 129 | Mt. Hope Unit 229 |
| Coleman Unit 280 | Pewaukee Unit 71 |
| Cottage Grove Unit 248 | Rio Unit 208 |
| Dane Unit 503 | Rome Unit 65 |
| DeForest Unit 348 | St. Nazianz Unit 477 |
| Delavan Unit 95 | Spooner Unit 12 |
| Edgerton Unit 30 | Stoughton Unit 59 |
| Eleva Unit 459 | Tigerton Unit 239 |
| Elkhorn Unit 45 | Two Rivers Unit 165 |
| Fifield Unit 532 | White Lake Unit 534 |
| Hartland Unit 294 | Wild Rose Unit 370 |
| Hayward Unit 218 | Winter Unit 303 |
| Kenosha Unit 21 | Wisconsin Rapids Unit 442 |
| Land O' Lakes Unit 464 | |

POPPY

Best Department Poppy Program in Central Division
 Department of Wisconsin
 Kay Grosskopf, Department Chairman

Poppy Poster Contest, Class II (Grades 4 & 5)
Best Poppy Poster in Central Division
 Easton Knorr
 Sponsored by Shiocton Unit 512 ~ District 9

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Most Outstanding Department Public Relations Program in Central Division
 Department of Wisconsin
 Bob Shappell, Department Chairman

VA&R

Bonnie Jakubczyk
 Department Chair
 bon6862@yahoo.com
 414-531-7890

Thank you, Veterans, for your service!

November 11 became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. In the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became known as Veterans Day. This is a day set aside to remember and recognize Veterans who have served or who are currently serving to protect our freedoms.

Yes, we should be thanking our Veterans every day. This Veterans Day why not make it a special day for them? Some ways to do that are by checking for and attending Veterans Day events in your community. If there are none, try to host an event to honor Veterans, like a dinner at your Post. In addition to attending events, check with your Post to see if any members could use help around their homes with yardwork or odd jobs. Organize a group and head over to help them out. Donate to a nonprofit that helps Veterans and their families. Support Veteran-owned businesses.

Beyond in-person events and volunteer activities, try giving back to Veterans through kind words and handmade crafts. Search for craft ideas online for Veterans Day. Make them at your unit meeting and encourage Juniors and Sons to help. A simple thank you card will go a long way. These small acts of kindness should brighten their day.

As members, we should all be supporting the Be The One mission. Ask a Veteran how they are doing, listen when a Veteran needs to talk, and reach out when a Veteran is struggling. There are training sessions available; visit legion.org/betheone for more information. Remember to report on what you have done and take pictures.

2024-2025 National Appointments

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Joanie Dickerson | Education Committee Central Division Chairman |
| Diane Duscheck | American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Vice President |
| Maggie Geiger | Alternate National Executive Committeeperson |
| Sue Hembrook | Poppy Committee Central Division Chairman |
| Bonnie Jakubczyk | National Executive Committeeperson |
| April Kollmorgen | Membership Committee Central Division Chairman |
| Amy Luft | Legislative Committee Vice Chairman |
| Diana Sirovina | Poppy Chairman |



POPPY REMINDER!

Poppies can be distributed **all year long**. Veterans Day is a great time to do a distribution. 2025 Poppy Orders are due by December 15, 2024. Orders received after December 15 will be charged an additional processing fee. **Don't delay – order today!**

ROSEMARIE HAUCK ELECTED CDNVP



CDNVP Rosemarie Hauck

2024-2025 Central Division National Vice President Rosemarie Hauck hails from the Department of Missouri. Her official visit to Wisconsin was during the October 5 ALA in the Know Conference held in Cedarburg.

Rosemarie is eligible for membership through her husband Joel, who served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. She is a member of Florissant Valley Memorial Unit 444 in Florissant, Missouri.

Rosemarie attended Harris Teachers College and Webster University and worked in Design and Development Instrumentation Engineering for 40 years.

TRISH WARD INSTALLED AS NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Trish Ward was installed as National President of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) during the 2024 National Convention in New Orleans.

She has held numerous leadership positions in the organization at the unit, district, department, and national levels. At the national level, she served as chair of VA&R, Children & Youth, Constitution & Bylaws, Leadership, Legislative, ALA Girls Nation, Public Relations, and Membership.

President Ward is a member of John P. Hand Unit 250 in Louisburg, Kansas. She is eligible for ALA membership through her father, John M. Brusati, and her grandfather, Edmund S. Lindberg. Her father served

in the U.S. Army in World War II and her grandfather served in the U.S. Navy during WWII.

In her professional life, Ward retired in 2023 as Senior Lead Project Manager at Lumen, a global technology and IT company. She holds bachelor's degrees from both the University of Southern California and the University of Kansas. Her hobby is studying parliamentary law and she is a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians.

Ward's family is also involved in The American Legion Family organizations. She and her husband Steve bring children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to the Family experience.



National President Trish Ward

LEGISLATIVE

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

The Legislative program provides information and assistance to ALA members to advocate for the Legislative agenda of The American Legion. On the ALA department website (www.amlegionauxwi.org), click on the Program tab, then click on the Legislative program, for more information about The American Legion Legislative Agenda for the 118th Congress, 2nd Session. You will be able to understand what priorities the Legion is working on to advocate for Veterans in a short and concise explanation.

Be sure to sign-up to receive Grassroots Action Center updates. It lists Veterans' priorities that we as American Legion Family members need to have our elected officials understand how important it is to us that Veterans, military, and their families receive the benefits they are owed. It is very easy to sign-up to have information sent to your email and have pre-written letters to send to your elected officials. From the Grassroots page, click on Action Center; then fill in your name, address, email and 'send.' Shortly after you send your letter, your elected official will usually send you a note thanking you.

Senate Joint Resolution 34, Protect the American flag, has still not passed. Let's all send letters to our congressmen, everyday, until they pass the bill to protect Old Glory. You may only send one letter on each issue in a 24-hour period.

Please keep track of the number of letters and contacts you have with your elected officials, as well as the hours it takes to read and send letters, and report them on your year-end report.

As it is written in the ALA mission statement, "the mission of the ALA is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who served." This is another way we are supporting our Veterans.

With elections right around the corner, remember we are NONPARTISAN, please do not wear your ALA branded clothing or pins to any political rallies, etc. Your personal view is not the view of the entire organization.

Deanna Farley
Department Chair
farleyofsc@gmail.com
920-810-2664

The Poppy Program has had a support role in the American Legion Auxiliary since its birth in 1921. On Memorial Day and Veterans Day, millions of red crepe paper poppies are distributed across the country in exchange for donations that go directly to assist disabled and hospitalized Veterans in our communities. Most of us recognize the Poppy as a red crepe paper flower that symbolizes strength, honor and sacrifice. It is also worn or displayed as a special remembrance of those Veterans who served their country and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for all of us.

The Poppy Program provides a means to educate people of the financial benefit realized because of the Poppy distribution. As units begin to explore what programs that they will

POPPY

be working on in 2024-2025, the Poppy distribution is many times one of the top selected programs. That distribution can be done year-round and in many ways.

Think outside of the perpetual box! I would love to hear how you did your distribution! What worked and what didn't? Remember to always ask for permission to distribute Poppies at any business location. There may be some locations where you can leave a donation canister if the owner allows it. If you have not yet ordered your poppies, do so as soon as possible. The deadline to order is December 15, 2024. Orders will be filled as received so don't wait to order!

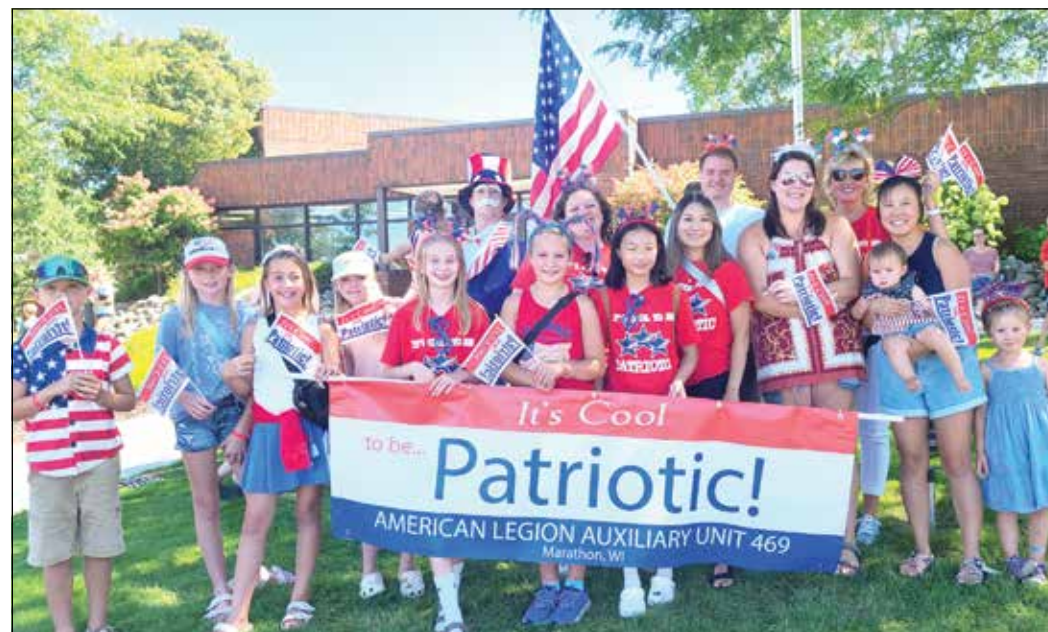
Sponsor a Poppy Poster Contest in your local school. Contact your local art teacher and encourage them to put the Poppy Story in their curriculum. Provide the poster paper for their classrooms! Budgets are tight so some financial support may help. Ask your local Post members if they are willing to come to

school to present a panel discussion on their military experiences. This can prove to be very effective to give the students some ideas for their poster! Contact me for a sample agenda for your panel discussion. Send me all of your units 1st place winning Poppy Poster Contest entries by March 15th, 2025. They will be judged on the Department level and one winner in each classification will be sent on to Central Division for further competition.

The 2024-2025 Poppy Program Engagement Plan, poppy information and worksheets are posted on the department website (www.amlegionauxwi.org) or you can contact me for any information you may need to make your district, county, or unit Poppy Program a success.

Remember, reporting is essential to achieve our mission of quality support for our Veterans. Let me know all the creative ways your unit is promoting the Poppy Program. Photos and newspaper articles are greatly appreciated. I look forward to hearing from all of you.

IT'S COOL TO BE PATRIOTIC!



Alois Dreikosen ALA Unit 469 in Marathon celebrated 75 years. The unit was chartered in July of 1949. For the past 67 years the Marathon Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit have sponsored a community event, "Marathon Fun Days." The event includes a carnival, food, entertainment, a Kiddy Day and Sunday parade. The event brings the community together as they say goodbye to summer. The Auxiliary unit uses the motto they established in 2018, "It's Cool to be Patriotic," to promote Americanism, patriotism, and the ALA mission. They lead the Kiddy Day parade with Uncle Sam to teach youth to be proud Americans who respect our military and Veterans.

LEADERSHIP

Teresa Isensee
Department Chair
tisensee2173@gmail.com
715-577-5259

Committee Members: Sarah Stiff
and Christina Petranovich

Are you a Leader? Are you passionate about The American Legion Family? Can you adapt to changes? Can you lead by example? Then your knowledge and expertise are needed to help lead the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary, to grow our membership, and keep the values and mission of our organization for future generations.

Leadership is more than being an officer – it is about your relationship with members, sharing your knowledge and talents, and creating an environment where individual growth and knowledge helps our organization to connect and grow. Mentor someone you know who has qualities that can enhance your membership and promote your

unit within your community.

What are your reasons for not wanting to be an officer, a chairman, or coordinating an event? Is it time, resources, knowledge? Does your unit have a plan in place to transfer knowledge to new officers? What if an officer passes away – say the Treasurer – do you know where everything is kept? What bank the accounts are at? Who are the authorized signers? Does the family know that this information needs to be kept? Create a plan so that all information is available at any time, with no disruption to your unit’s mission.

What are your strengths and how could you mentor others? **Are you “Recruiting and Mentoring the next you!”** Creating the next you – an important part of mentoring – who will be there to bring our organization into the future?

If your unit, county or district would like a Leadership Workshop, please contact me to set up your event. Let us assist, educate, empower and mentor members to achieve their personal potential!

MISSION IN ACTION: ALA UNIT 243



Sydney Arndt; a Junior member of Plymouth ALA Unit 243, served as the Poppy representative to welcome home 120 Veterans from two Stars & Stripes Honor Flights. A poppy made by our Wisconsin Poppy Shop was given to each Veteran returning home.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

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

Why is Public Relations so important that it is an actual ALA program and not just a management function? Consider these reasons:

1. Building Awareness and Understanding. We are unique in many ways, and often a mystery to our communities. PR tools help educate the public about our purposes and our values, while fostering a deep appreciation of what we contribute to Veterans, their families, and our communities.

2. Fundraising and Resources. All units rely heavily on financial support and volunteers. Public Relations plays a huge role in attracting donors, sponsors, and volunteers by communicating the impact of donations, expressing our gratitude, and keeping donors informed of our successes.

3. Corporate Partnerships. Truly successful local Legion Families have solid partnerships with other community groups, resulting in financial support and access to a wider audience through joint events. Effective PR can help secure and nurture these crucial relationships.

4. Crisis Communication. When

challenges arise, whether they are related to financial mismanagement, controversies, or unforeseen disasters, timely PR efforts can manage the situation and protect our reputation. Additionally, PR tools must be used to rebuild public and member trust. This might involve issuing apologies, demonstrating a commitment to change, and showcasing the organization’s positive impact.

5. Impact Reporting. We must clearly and regularly tell our communities how we are impacting lives through our programs, our volunteer hours, and our donations. We report to our National ALA organization, but often fail to pass the same success stories on to our local businesses, schools, governments, and families.

6. Membership. A successful and focused PR program can improve our membership efforts, both in recruitment and retention. Build a solid reputation, publicize our missions and our successes, and people will be more apt to want to become part of what we do.

PR is not merely marketing, nor is it just writing articles for the local paper. Effective PR is vital for our success. A well-developed PR program can raise awareness about our important missions, secure necessary resources, and build lasting relationships.



2025-2026

DEPARTMENT PROGRAM INTEREST FORM

Senior Vice President Sue Hembrook is considering appointments for the 2025-2026 administrative year (July 2025 to July 2026). If you are interested in a department position, please complete the information below and email it to Sue Hembrook (genesuehem@wi.rr.com) by December 15, 2024.

Name: _____ District #: _____ Unit #: _____

Phone: Cell Home _____ Best time to call: _____

Email: _____

Preferred Program/Position (please rank up to five choices, #1 to #5):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ALA in the Know (Vice Chairman) | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership (Committee) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Americanism (Chairman) | <input type="checkbox"/> National Security (Chairman) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WALA State Bowling Assn (Committee, 3-yr term) | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Policy (Committee, must be PDP) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children & Youth/Liaison to Child Welfare Fdn (Chrm) | <input type="checkbox"/> Poppy Program (Chairman) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service (Chairman) | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations (Chairman) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Constitution & Bylaws (Chairman – must be PDP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations (Committee) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education (Chairman) | <input type="checkbox"/> Standing Rules (Chairman, must be PDP) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance (Committee, 3-yr term; resume required) | <input type="checkbox"/> VA&R (Chairman) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising (Chairman) | <input type="checkbox"/> VA&R-Christmas Gift Shop (Chairman) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Activities (Chairman) | <input type="checkbox"/> VA&R-Christmas Gift Shop (Assistant) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Activities (Vice Chairman) | <input type="checkbox"/> VA&R-Homeless Women Veterans (Chairman) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership (Chairman) | <input type="checkbox"/> VA&R-Service to Veterans (Chairman) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership (Committee) | |

Describe why you are interested or qualified for this/these position(s).

List previously held positions at the unit, county, district or department level.

List current positions you hold.

VA&R – HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS

Chrys Porter
Department Chair
momchrys@gmail.com
715-797-1289

Feeling helpless?

Where can I go for help? I am a woman Veteran in need of financial assistance, where can I go? What will happen to me and my family? I am sure this is a reoccurring thought for some people. But know that there is help!

You, as a Unit, can start by contacting your local shelters, churches, Veterans' organizations and start asking questions on how you can help with the specific needs of your community. Then make a list of what is available for Veterans from each

organization and specifically know what is available for our female Veterans. But remember to also educate the organizations that you have contacted with how The American Legion Family programs can help your local Veterans.

Wisconsin is unique in that we have a Homeless Women Veterans Grant Program that is funded by the American Legion Auxiliary through generous donations. We are able to assist female Veterans who are homeless or at risk of being homeless with a one-time grant to make a positive impact on their life. This grant is paid directly to the vendor, supplier or landlord and not the Veteran. The Veteran must work with a sponsor and complete the application with a

narrative and proof of service.

Let's look at the needs within your community and within our state to see what we can do to help our Veterans in need, but let's make sure we make the needs of our female Veterans known and a top priority. Let's work together with all the organizations to assist in the needs of Veterans. Let's educate our Veterans in what is available to them and what the requirements are for the programs so that they are able to make an educated decision on a positive outcome of a situation they find themselves in.

To support the Homeless Women Veterans Grant program, please send donations to ALA headquarters using the Poppy Fund Suggested Donation form on the department website.

Diana Sirovina
Department Chair
dsirovina@icloud.com
414-881-9581

Since 1928, the American Legion Auxiliary has sponsored Christmas Gift Shops in VA facilities throughout the country. Here in Wisconsin, this wonderful tradition dates back many years. Although the program has undergone many changes over time, the one thing that will never change is our commitment to caring for our Veterans and their families.

Through this program, Veterans in long-term care facilities can select Christmas gifts for their loved ones at absolutely no cost to them. The cost of gifts, wrapping and shipping are all totally covered by generous donations from units all over our state.

Our Christmas Gift Shop is a seasonal event. Preparations begin in mid-September, and the entire project is complete by early December. In that span of around ten weeks, the magic of Christmas and the true holiday spirit comes alive for these Veterans and their families.

Christmas Gift Shop 2024 will look similar to years past. Gifts will be

pre-selected on Amazon for people of all ages, from the young to the young at heart. A colorful catalog will be prepared for the Veterans to view. Orders from our heroes will be taken either by our volunteers or with the help of VA staff members. Gifts will be wrapped with great care and shipped to those special family members.

Many times, we receive cards and notes from family members, telling us how excited they were to receive a gift chosen by their loved one. Family members are pleasantly surprised to receive their beautifully wrapped gifts, knowing their Veteran was able to select it especially for them. These personal notes are a wonderful reminder of how important this program is to so many.

Even though our Christmas Gift Shop season is only a few months long, your unit can make it a year-round event by making a generous donation to this great program anytime you have funds available. Checks payable to 'ALA-Wisconsin' should be mailed to Department Headquarters noting Christmas Gift Shop in the memo field. This program would not be possible without your generous funding. Thank you for supporting this program!

VA&R – DIRECTOR OF HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS

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

Every one of us needs to applaud our Representatives and Deputies who are appointed to our hospitals and homes to serve our Veterans. These Reps and Deps truly give of themselves to brighten the lives of our Veterans that reside in these facilities or have appointments there. These volunteers truly are working the mission. However, they need the support of each and every one of us. Whether it be in the making of items for the Veterans' enjoyment or donating monies to provide bingo and snacks. Also, wish lists of particular items needed at each facility are in this month's Unit Mailing and posted on the department website. All of your donations are truly appreciated and our Veterans are grateful for your kindness.

In our department, we are affiliated with nine VA facilities, all of which are unique in themselves. They offer different types of care; some are hospitals while others are nursing or assisted living facilities. However, they all have

one thing in common – the safety and well-being of our Veterans. The Department of Wisconsin truly has reason to be proud of our hospitals and homes within our boundaries. They provide the best care imaginable and our Reps and Deps add to this immensely. Their caring for those whom they serve is contagious. They truly brighten the days of everyone they come in contact with.

If you are able to support these volunteers in creating a warm and caring atmosphere for our Veterans, we ask that you refer to each facility's wish list. The items that are being requested will truly be used and appreciated. As the year goes on, we will try to keep these lists updated as the needs change or your generosity eliminates the need for some of the items on the list. As always, cash donations are appreciated and unless you specify they are for a particular item, they will go toward supplies from the wish list or other activities. All monetary donations should go through our department headquarters using a Poppy Fund Suggested Donation form, specifying which facility you want the donation applied to.

Please know that your gifts and monetary donations are truly appreciated by our Veterans.

VA&R – SERVICE TO VETERANS

Mary Petrie
Department Chair
mmrtpetrie@charter.net

Our mission statement proudly proclaims that In the spirit of Service, not self, the Auxiliary honors the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our Veterans, military, and their families. Since WWI this organization has strived to seek out and address the needs of our heroes. At that time there was no formal healthcare plan or program.

During WWII, it was determined that a need existed for a coordinated volunteer effort, which then developed into a formal program.

On April 8, 1946, The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and several other Veterans' service organizations met in

Washington, D.C. with the Assistant Administrator for Special Services. This resulted in a newer administration with regulations and procedures, forming the first VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) Advisory Committee.

In 1964, the Field Service Volunteer program was born. Ten years later, the Home Service program supplemented Veteran care. In 2013, Field Service and Home Service combined to form *Service to Veterans*, where volunteers serve from their homes and in the community, rather than in a VA facility, making the American Legion Auxiliary the go-to resource for the country's Veterans and their families.

How is this goal accomplished? Organize or host a Stand Down or Job Fair for both Veterans and spouses, assemble care packages, craft tray favors and greeting cards, assist with a

Veteran's burial or graveside upkeep, sew, cook, or shop for active-duty military and/or Veterans and their families. Offer to wash the family car, do light home repairs, housework, or yard work, or simply sit with a Veteran to give the caregiver a break.

Is there a Veteran making a fresh start? Put together a Buddy Basket and gift it. Set up a Benefits Briefing to assure Veterans are knowledgeable about benefits available to them. Contact a local nursing home or assisted living center to see if there are Veterans residing there and if the facility allows visits. Participate in a Walk or Run to raise funds to support your community's military and Veteran populations.

Thank you for serving those who served...and remember to thank a Veteran!

AUGUST 2024 DAILY SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

| Day | Prize | Winner | City |
|-----|-------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | \$15 | Barb Polich-Endres | Madison |
| 2 | \$15 | Christina Gordon | Waukegan |
| 3 | \$15 | Doris Filter | Oconto |
| 4 | \$500 | Isabel Moudry | Radisson |
| 5 | \$15 | Diane Larson | Osseo |
| 6 | \$15 | Kay Nyberg | La Crosse |
| 7 | \$15 | Phil Koehler | Plover |
| 8 | \$15 | Amanda Warner | Exeland |
| 9 | \$15 | Eleanor Borchardt | Rothschild |
| 10 | \$15 | Brenda Guse | Somerset |
| 11 | \$25 | June Dopkins | Webster |
| 12 | \$15 | Rose Schroeder | Lake Mills |
| 13 | \$15 | Jane Bates | Gordonville, TX |
| 14 | \$15 | Jane Jacque | Port Washington |
| 15 | \$15 | Mary Kay Sieckman | Platteville |
| 16 | \$15 | Catherine Olsen | New London |
| 17 | \$15 | Bonnie Murray | Melrose |
| 18 | \$25 | Marilyn Sellers | Park Falls |
| 19 | \$15 | Carrie Miller | Kewaskum |
| 20 | \$15 | Rachel Larson | Webster |
| 21 | \$15 | Ellen O'Brion | Rio |
| 22 | \$15 | Dennis Lind | Lone Rock |
| 23 | \$15 | Deanne Walter | West Salem |
| 24 | \$15 | Betty Banta | Janesville |
| 25 | \$25 | Nancy Fields | Marion |
| 26 | \$15 | Darcey Kendl | Oak Creek |
| 27 | \$15 | Karen Walker | Boscobel |
| 28 | \$15 | Catherine Kramer | Kaukauna |
| 29 | \$15 | Gary Orth | Seneca |
| 30 | \$15 | La Rene Carpenter | Bagley |
| 31 | \$15 | Patty Hewitt | Dane |



Jim Johnson
Department
Commander

I truly hope this issue of the Badger Legionnaire finds you well and looking forward to activities that celebrate our day, Veterans Day. While many of us will be doing the work of The American

Legion, make sure you take some time for yourself. Reflect on the positive aspects of your military service, the lifelong friends you have made, the positive impact you have made on others because of your service, commitment, and sacrifice. You deserve a day!

I know some will mark the day with Veteran appreciation meals, enjoy! Those are great opportunities to meet up with other Veterans or even meet a new Veteran.

If you know a Veteran that will mark the day with loneliness, please reach out to that Veteran. Your voice may make a huge difference in their day. A little bit of kindness goes a long way.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



I'm truly enjoying the visits that I've been on so far and I'm looking forward to those events and visits ahead. It's amazing hanging out with Veterans from throughout our Great State!

As I write this article, I just completed a weeklong tour across Districts 8, 9, 10, and 11 including a stay at Camp American Legion with my fellow American Legion Riders. My visits so far have left me with an overwhelming sense of pride in The American Legion, The American Legion Family and everything we represent. In Wisconsin we are blessed with the spirit of service and an incredible Legion Family!

I will share just one picture that I think embodies our journey in service, courtesy of our Adjutant Julie Muhle. We will continue to make Wisconsin #LegionStrong by adhering to our purpose and Being The One for other Veterans!

Thank you for the privilege to serve as your Commander.



Becky Mueller
2024-2025
Department
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

God's blessings to you! Your heartfelt love is being demonstrated around Wisconsin, evident from my travels to our Legion Family events.

I am looking forward to attending ALAITK and visiting with more of you on a one-on-one basis. Fall Conferences are in full swing, and I am hoping to listen in on what your units, counties and districts are doing and planning to make this a wonderful year *servicing our Veterans, military and each other*. Auxiliary members serve from the heart, making a difference in the lives of so many.

The holiday season is here – a chance to demonstrate our love and commitment to our extended family embracing our entire community. Pause for a moment and show respect to our Indigenous People and all of us that emigrated here to find a better life as set forth in our Constitution and Declaration of Independence. Continue to work to make it possible for all to grasp the American Dream. It is worth fighting for.

Enjoy the Halloween season with the children and youth – sharing our coloring books and safety tips. Remember those who left a legacy for you on All Saints Day.

Veterans Day is so important. Thank all those Veterans and service members you know and meet for their willingness to serve and protect this great country. So many of us will be at a dinner table with them – listen to their stories, honor their service, celebrate our freedoms.

Thanksgiving is truly an American holiday. Say a prayer of thankfulness to God above for family, food, and football! Don't forget our Wisconsin traditions of deer hunting and shopping.

Continue to serve by working on our programs, listening to those who need an ear, looking around to see the needs and then fulfilling them. I am looking forward to your innovative ways to Make a Difference.

Be The One – check on each other. This time of year brings much joy and happiness but to some it is a depressing and lonesome time. Be alert and reach out. You can change lives and may be instrumental in even saving a life. Go ahead – BE THE ONE!!!

Yours in Service, Becky Mueller

SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER



Allen Watry
SAL Detachment
Commander

Greetings Wisconsin Legion Family,

A very powerful Work Safe Message was shared at my place of employment this week. A co-worker told us about a very tough conversation they were recently a part of. A close personal friend of theirs called early one morning to share her husband had died the previous evening from a work-related accident. It was a very hard conversation; one nobody wants to be a part of. My co-worker felt compelled to share it with us as motivation for all of us to stay focused on Working Safe.

As I reflect on what was shared and why, I believe it is a message which also applies to our "Be The One" mission. During State Convention one of our National Guests, NVC Terry Harris, shared an experience he continues to live with and be affected by. He had a very close friend, who was a Veteran, who took his own life. Terry shared how he feels he failed his friend. He

continues to ask himself how did he miss the signs this person was struggling so much? What could he have done differently to keep this person from committing suicide? Again, a situation I hope all of us can agree we would rather not have to go through and/or share. So, let's make sure we are embracing our "Be The One" mission. Lets do all we can to not have to be in those two situations.

Now, on a lighter note to close, I am looking forward to "hitting the road" again this Fall. District Fall Conferences are right around the corner. Your Detachment Executive Committee members and I are looking forward to being out and seeing/hearing about all the great things you are doing. Please continue to do all the great work you are doing. Please continue to be that needed advocate for our Veterans, our Active Military, and their Families. And continue to "Be The One" for the people around you!!

For God and Country,
Allen Watry

LEGION RIDERS



Brad Heller
State Assistant
Director
American Legion
Riders Association

The change in the wind, and the bright colors starting to show through the trees, means the Fall season is upon us. With that, motorcyclists from all over the state and beyond descend upon the Tomahawk area for the Fall Color Ride. It also means the Legion Riders make the annual trek for the Fall Ride to Camp American Legion.

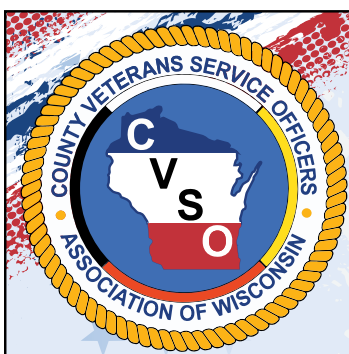
For over 10 years The American Legion Riders of Wisconsin have descended on Camp in the fall to bring donations to support Camp and better understand its mission: A place for healing Veterans and families. Camp opens up to the Riders for the week to stay and enjoy all that Camp has to offer. From the stunning views and the rustic settings, the peace that it brings can be felt to your core. The staff and volunteers truly make you feel at home and as was stated by PDC Ken Rynes, "It is the pearl of the Department of Wisconsin American Legion." It encompasses so much of what our Pillars teach us in one place. The tranquility, serenity, and camaraderie that is experienced is unparalleled. The week is busy

with Riders getting a hearty breakfast and venturing out to experience the surrounding communities and landscapes on two wheels. Then back to Camp for stories and laughter around the fire with the moon and the lake as a picturesque backdrop. The week culminates on Saturday, with the Riders rallying in Tomahawk and riding as a group to Camp. Fifty bikes were in the procession to Camp and it turned a lot of heads as we thundered by. Once at Camp, Jim and the staff put on an absolutely fabulous lunch and tour, followed by the important work of the day, donations.

This year the Riders brought donations of over \$32,000, monies that will be used to re-stain the main lodge. The giving and generosity of the Riders was on full display and there were several moments of tears as the love for Camp was obvious to those in attendance. While I've made several trips to Camp, it was my first time truly staying there. As the newly appointed Rider Liaison to the Department Committee on Camp American Legion it gave me a better sense of what Camp is and how it should be cared for. If you've never been, you need to go. For the Riders, Camp will always be revered and cared for not just in the Fall, but for all time.

Brad Heller can be reached at brheller65@gmail.com.

Veterans Crisis Line 
DIAL 988
then **PRESS 1**



County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin

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

Your local Veteran Advocates, serving you since 1935

