



# BADGER



# LEGIIONNAIRE

& WISCONSIN VOL 100 #2 | APRIL 2023



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

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

## THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT CONVENTION

Join the Legion Family for the 104th Department Convention July 19-23, 2023. THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

The week will kick off Wednesday, July 19 with the Wisconsin American Legion Foundation meeting at the convention center and the Membership Committee Meeting at Bull Falls Harley-Davidson.

The American Legion Riders will be arriving at Bull Falls Harley-Davidson from their 3-day Back to Basics Tour. There will be a Post-Ride Party at Bull Falls Harley-Davidson including live music, food trucks and drinks from 4-9 p.m.

The events will continue on Thursday, July



20 with the Department Standing Committee meetings, the Department Executive Committee meeting and the Convention Leadership briefing.

Friday, July 21 will begin with the District Caucuses. Posts will hear about the resolutions, receive awards and convention highlights. They

will also hear from the candidates running for office and receive your annual manuals and post materials. Then on to the General Session for opening ceremonies, dynamic speakers, awards, program presentations and nomination of Department Officers. The afternoon will wrap up

with Convention Committees to decide on resolutions. Don't forget to give blood at the Annual Blood Drive from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Join the candidates in the evening for hospitality rooms, where you can connect with your fellow Legionnaires and learn more about the future leaders.

Saturday, July 22 will again begin with District Caucuses and then Legionnaires will vote for the 2023/2024 Leadership. After voting join the Convention Session for more dynamic speakers, awards, program presentations and the announcement of 2023/2024 Leadership.

SEE CONVENTION, PAGE 4

## KRUESEL WINS GRAND PRIZE IN THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE SWEEPSTAKES



Ervin Kruesel accepts his winnings.

I am a 37-year continuous member of The American Legion, Montgomery, Plant, Dudley Post 10 in Wausau. I served from 1961-1964 and was a military policeman with the 385 MP Battalion during the Berlin Crisis. We were the only MPs in Germany with the 7th Army, so whenever they had a mission or exercise we escorted them and provided traffic control.

Prior to me stepping to a less active roll, I served on the Veterans Series and Family Resources Committee and The Children and Youth Committee. I also served as acting Commander in 2011 and then as Commander 2012-2013. During this time period we negotiated the sale of The American Legion Golf Course, Bar and Restaurant to the Dudley Corporation. Presently we have full use of the facilities at no cost to our post. They also host one of our largest fundraisers, The Dick Dudley Golf Outing.

As a post we do fundraisers for Camp American Legion, Never Forgotten Honor Flight, Patriot K9s of Wisconsin, Stable Hands and many other organizations.

2023 The Spirit of Service Sweepstakes SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS			
PRIZE	DESCRIPTION	NAME	CITY
GRAND	\$10,000	Ervin Kruesel	Wausau, WI
2nd	\$5,000	Michael Foshee	New Holstein, WI
3rd	\$2,500	Todd McArdle	Peotone, IL
4th	\$1,000	Ronald Fiore	Burlington, WI
5th	\$500	Robert Rock	Madison, WI
6th	\$500	Phillip Lysdahl	Chippewa Falls, WI
7th	\$250	John Christensen	Hatley, WI
8th	\$250	Dale Christensen	Denmark, WI

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

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[wilegion.org/badger-legionnaire](https://wilegion.org/badger-legionnaire)

You can also call your Department Headquarters to opt out.

**“Badger Legionnaire”  
& “Wisconsin”**

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**2022-23 Department Officers**  
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2nd - Jim Johnson  
3rd - Jerry Hook  
4th - Linda Pfeiffer  
5th - Craig Ellis  
6th - Gail Minks  
7th - Phil Green  
8th - Adam Klapperich  
9th - Debbie Thomas  
10th - Larry Larson  
11th - Gerry Johnson  
12th - Scott Markle**

Subscribers: To report any upcoming changes of address, please ask your Post Adjutant to fill out a Membership Data Form and forward it to Wisconsin American Legion Headquarters. The change of address form that will be completed by the Post Adjutant should not be confused with the change of address card filled out at the Post Office. Department financial statements are available to Legionnaires in good standing upon written request through their District Commanders.

**“Wisconsin”**

**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Wisconsin**  
2930 American Legion Drive  
P.O. Box 140 • Portage, WI 53901

**Bonnie Dorniak, Editor  
Linda Coppock, Department President  
Bonnie Dorniak, Exec. Secretary/Treasurer**

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

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

**BADGER BOYS STATE**

**80TH SESSION – 2023**

**BBS REMEMBERS THE PAST AND LOOKS TO THE FUTURE**

**By Thomas A. Skrenes**  
First Assistant Director  
Badger Boys State

Fascism was on the march in Europe! The probability of another world war was facing all Americans. The “American Great Economic Depression” was hanging on into the late 1930s. The world and our nation were anxious about the future. In the midst of all of this uncertainty, Val W. Ove and the Wisconsin American Legion had a vision. Establish an annual program of citizenship to train our future leaders to embrace our constitution, rights and responsibilities. A few years before the Illinois American Legion had created the model which was adapted to Wisconsin by Ove and his leadership group of Legionnaires. The focus was to be on intense instruction in the principles of American, state, county, and local government. It was intended to be learning by doing and it worked.



In 1939, only a few weeks before the war in Europe began, Badger Boys State met for its first session at St. John’s Military Academy in Delafield. Four hundred eighty-four high school juniors attended. The program continued at Delafield until 1941 when it moved to Ripon College.



World War II forced the suspension of the program in 1943, 1944, and 1945. The Boys State experience in Wisconsin continued at Ripon College until 2022 when the program moved to the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. The COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 sessions.

The 80th session will meet at Eau Claire from June 11 to June 17. Over 800 high school boys are expected to be at the session along with about 140 volunteer staff. Young men from

across Wisconsin will hear from our Wisconsin governmental leaders and will experience for themselves what it means to be a leader. Americanism, which is the preservation of our liberties and constitutional rights, will be promoted during the week. Leaders will be developed and these young people will return to their communities prepared to build a future for themselves, and our nation.

For many years the Boys State program has honored the men and women of our country who have

served in the military at a session of the program. This year on Thursday, June 15 Veterans are invited to the evening program to be thanked and recognized. Come and join us!

Russell H. Hanseter, Director Emeritus of the Wisconsin Boys State program reminds us:

“We are proud to be...volunteers in a program that has withstood the test of time. We are proud of the programs traditions and of the accomplishments... We look forward to a week that will last a lifetime.”

**YOUNG HAS LONG, DISTINGUISHED RECORD OF SERVICE**

For 68 years Korean War Veteran John Young has been an active member of The American Legion. In these almost 7 decades he had served Post 220 in Soldiers Grove as Sergeant of Arms, Adjutant, Membership Chairman and Post Commander. John has also served as Financial Officer for Crawford County Legion since 1981, was 1st Commander of the 3rd District Legion, and a member of the Legion Honor Group 40&8. In 1978, when Soldiers Grove was devastated by a flood, John oversaw the relocation and expansion of Post 220. He created an Honor Guard for local military funerals, presenting the flag many times to the widows and families of his good friends. John,



**John Young**

together with Roger Turnmire, was responsible for the building of the Medal of Honor Wall and Veterans Honor Wall in Soldiers Grove.

John Young’s community contributions extend far beyond his tireless work for The American Legion and Post 220. He started and has remained active in the Soldiers Grove Volunteer Fire Department, the North Crawford Rescue Service, the Soldiers Grove Community Health Clinic and the North Crawford Housing Authority. He is a multi decade member of the Soldiers Grove Lions Club, both the Viroqua VFW and Eagles Clubs, and a member and trustee of United Methodist Church of Soldiers Grove.

In 1975 John was elected Board Chairman of Couleecap Services.

He has continued in this position for the past 48 years, growing the organization to a staff of 80 with a budget of \$2 million. Couleecap works with the citizens of the Coulee Region to create opportunity and improve their quality of life.

In 2012 John Young’s extraordinary lifelong contributions to his community were nationally recognized when in Washington DC, accompanied by Bonnie and his wife of 67 years, and his daughter Cathy, he was presented with “The Jefferson Award for Public Service”, presented to ordinary people who do extraordinary things without the expectation of recognition. John Young is truly an exceptional man and citizen. All of Wisconsin salutes him.





**ABOVE LEFT:** Left to Right — Oratorical Chair Bob Stone poses with the winner Mya Koffie, runner-up Zoe Stephanie and fourth-place winner Josie Meier. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Appleton American Legion Post No. 38 proudly sponsored Ms. Mya Koffie, winner of the Wisconsin Oratorical Contest. She represented the 9th District and participated in the State Oratorical Contest held on February 11, 2023 at Ripon College. **AT RIGHT:** Left to Right — President Linda Coppock, Mya Koffie, Commander Julie and Chair Bob Stone share a moment.

## KOFFIE WINS WISCONSIN ORATORICAL CONTEST

Mya Koffie, a senior from Appleton High School North, presented her oratorical on the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution - the Due Process Clause to Post 38 members on January 2, 2023.

Koffie, drawing on her own personal experiences, especially her father's, spoke of how our United States Constitution affords our citizens the right to due process; unlike other nations, such as the Sudan, where her father comes from. Her oratorical was riveting, informational, and delivered with conviction. Koffie will represent Wisconsin at the

National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis April 21 – 23.

The top four winners were:

- Winner – Mya Koffie – 9th District – Post 38 Appleton – 12th grade Appleton High School.
- 2nd place – Zoe Stephanie – 10th District - Post 98 Cumberland – 12th grade Cumberland High School.
- 3rd place – Kayla Dembiec – 2nd District – Post 355 Grafton – 12th grade Grafton High School.
- 4th place – Josie Meier – 3rd District – Post 214 Darlington – 11th grade Darlington High School.



**Jim Otto of Post 378 is presented a Citation from the Wisconsin State Assembly for his dedication to the recognition of military Veterans service to their country.**

## POST 378 VETERAN RECEIVES CITATION BY THE WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

At Mattox/Henslin Post 378's 2022 Veterans Day Program, Assemblyman Jon Plumer, 42nd Assembly District and State Senator Joan Ballweg presented Veteran Jim Otto a Citation by the Wisconsin State Assembly for his dedication to the recognition of military Veterans service to their country. Under Wisconsin Assembly Rule #97, Rep. Jon Plumer, presented the Citation to Jim for his dedication to Veterans on the milestone of his 90th birthday. Jim is a 36 year member of the American Legion.

For 25 years Jim has organized the Veterans Day Program at the Brandon Middle School. The slate of

speakers at these programs has included Fond du Lac County Executives, Sheriff Department Officers, State Senators and Assemblymen, Lieutenant Governors, Military Officers (active and retired), local Veterans and Dignitaries. Jim arranged the sponsoring of Skydivers to present the United States and Wisconsin State flags as the introduction to the Veterans Day Programs. Jim was instrumental in resurrecting the Memorial Day Parades and Programs since joining Post #378. Jim also continues to chair the Veterans Memorial Committee, which sponsored the construction of the Brandon Area Veterans Memorial in the Brandon Community Park.

## SCARLET GUARD AMERICAN LEGION COLOR GUARD MARKS 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

2023 marks 40 years of service of the Scarlet Guard American Legion Color Guard, which was formed in 1983 by a group of passionate members of the American Legion Post 38 in Appleton, Wisconsin. The first public appearance was in the Appleton Flag Day Parade in 1984. Over the past 40 years the unit has participated in twelve Dept. of WI American Legion Color Guard Competitions and won ten consecutive years. The Scarlet Guard also participated in four National American Legion Color Guard Competitions (in Louisville, KY; Chicago, IL; Baltimore, MD; and Cleveland, OH) and placed in the top ten at each. Since its start in 1983 the Scarlet Guard American Legion Color Guard has marched in hundreds of parades throughout Wisconsin, the United States, and Canada. The Scarlet Guard Color Guard's current roster includes members of all three American Legion family organizations from throughout north-

east Wisconsin. Other roles of the unit include presenting, posting, and/or retrieving the colors for high school, semi-pro, and professional sporting events, various meetings, conventions/conferences, municipal events, and more.

The Scarlet Guard American Legion Color Guard is welcoming all American Legion family members from throughout Wisconsin to join them on Saturday, June 10 to march en masse in the 72nd Appleton Flag Day Parade. Having a large American Legion family contingent in the parade will show the strength of the American Legion family organizations to the 50,000+ spectators and 100,000+ television viewers. The parade is referred to as the oldest and best Flag Day Parade in the nation. It is a 2-mile march. Those interested in participating should contact Eric Stadler at 920-450-6907 or [estadler@trustwf.com](mailto:estadler@trustwf.com) for more information.



**The Scarlet Guard American Legion Color Guard presents the colors at an Appleton North football game.**



# 2023 Department CONVENTION

July 19-23, 2023 ~ Rothschild, WI

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19 <sup>TH</sup>		
Move In and Set up	8:00 AM	Central WI Conv. & Expo
Membership Meeting	5:00 PM-7:00 PM	Bull Falls Harley-Davidson
WI American Legion Foundation	5:00 PM-7:00 PM	Central WI Conv. & Expo
Post Back To Basics Tour Party	4:00 PM-9:00 PM	Bull Falls Harley-Davidson
THURSDAY, JULY 20 <sup>TH</sup>		
Exhibits	8:00 AM-5:00 PM	Expo Hall Commons
Standing Committee Meetings	7:00 AM-9:00 AM	Central WI Conv. & Expo
Standing Committee Meetings	9:00 AM-11:00 AM	Central WI Conv. & Expo
Standing Committee Meetings	11:00 AM-1:00 PM	Central WI Conv. & Expo
Department Executive Committee Meeting	4:00 PM	Central WI Conv. & Expo
Leadership Briefing	Immediately following DEC	
FRIDAY, JULY 21 <sup>ST</sup>		
District Caucuses	7:30 AM	Central WI Conv. & Expo/Hotel
Blood Drive	9:00 AM-2:00 PM	Central WI Conv. & Expo
Convention Session	9:00 AM	Central WI Conv. & Expo
Dual Members Club Meeting	12:00 PM-1:00 PM	Hotel
Wisconsin Historian Assoc. (WHA) Meeting	1:00 PM-2:00 PM	Hotel
Convention Committees	2:00 PM-4:00 PM	Central WI Conv. & Expo/Hotel
Legion Ballot Clerk Meeting	4:00 PM	Central WI Conv. & Expo
GNUTS Social	4:30 PM-6:30 PM	Hotel
SATURDAY, JULY 22 <sup>ND</sup>		
District Caucuses	7:30 AM	Central WI Conv. & Expo/Hotel
Legion Elections	8:30-10:30 AM	Central WI Conv. & Expo
Convention Session	9:30 AM	Central WI Conv. & Expo
Run-Off Election	2 PM-3:30 PM	Central WI Conv. & Expo
Legion Riders Quarterly Meeting	2:00 PM-4:00 PM	Central WI Conv. & Expo
Church Services	5:00 PM	Central WI Conv. & Expo
PCC Party	7:00 PM	Central WI Conv. & Expo
SUNDAY, JULY 23 <sup>RD</sup>		
Memorial Service	8:00 AM	Central WI Conv. & Expo
Convention Session/Installation	9:30 AM	Central WI Conv. & Expo
Post-Convention DEC	Close of Convention	Central WI Conv. & Expo

For full Convention schedules and events, visit [wilegion.org/department-convention](http://wilegion.org/department-convention)

# CONVENTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In the afternoon join The Wisconsin American Legion Riders for their quarterly meeting, the first time being held at Department Convention. There will be a Catholic and Protestant service offered at 5 p.m. Then join the Department and the Past Commanders Club for an evening of fun including entertainment, a taco bar and cocktails. The outgoing Legion Family Leadership will be passing the

torch to the newly elected leadership. This is a fun Legion Family Event celebrating another successful year.

Sunday we will gather for a Legion Family Memorial Service followed by the Installation of Department Officers. The weekend will culminate with the Post-Convention Department Executive Committee meeting consisting of the newly elected DEC.

Reminder: Any resolutions are due 45 days prior to Convention — June 6.

**Best Western Plus**  
803 W Industrial Park Avenue  
Rothschild, WI 54474  
715-355-8900

**\$105 plus tax for Standard King or Two Queen Rooms**

**\$120 plus tax for Large Suite with 1 King & Pull out Sofa Sleeper (only 3 available)**

Group Block: American Legion  
Cut Off: June 20, 2023

**Bantr**  
805 Creske Avenue  
Rothschild, WI 54474  
715-241-6300

Studio: Thurs. \$109 plus tax,  
Studio: Friday-Saturday \$139 plus tax

Suite: Thurs. \$119 plus tax,  
Friday-Saturday \$149 plus tax

Lofts: Thurs. \$129 plus tax,  
Friday-Saturday \$159 plus tax

All have 2 Queens and priced at 4 people per room.  
Group Block: American Legion RB 2023  
Cut Off: June 20, 2023

CONVENTION HOUSING

There may be other options that open up after April 26, 2023.



## 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Convention

Central Wisconsin Convention & Expo Center  
10101 Market Street  
Rothschild, WI 54474  
July 19-23, 2023

This is your registration form only; this is **NOT YOUR DELEGATE FORM**. Delegate Forms are mailed to the Post 30 Days prior to Convention, June 21, 2023 per the Department Constitution and Bylaws. It is advised however, to register prior to this date.

Remember all Legionnaires are encouraged to attend the Department Convention, not just Delegates and Alternates. You can also register online at [wilegion.org](http://wilegion.org).

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Member ID #: \_\_\_\_\_ District Number: \_\_\_\_\_

AL Post #: \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_ SAL Squadron #: \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	NUMBER	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Registration Fee		\$30.00	
Registration Fee after July 15, 2023		\$35.00	
Saturday Evening PCC/Legion Family Event: Taco Bar, 1/2 Barrel of Beer, Soda, cash bar and Live Entertainment		\$25.00 each	
		<b>Total Enclosed:</b>	

Make checks payable to The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

OR enter credit card information below

Card Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Return with payment to:  
The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin  
Attn: Convention  
P.O. Box 388, Portage, WI 53901  
Or email to: [angela@wilegion.org](mailto:angela@wilegion.org)



## The American Legion Family Testimonial

### Department of Wisconsin Celebrates:

TAL Commander Julie Muhle  
ALA President Linda Coppock  
SAL Commander David Fuller

**When:** Saturday, May 20, 2023

**Where:** Romy's Nitingale  
W5670 County Rd A  
Black Creek, WI 54106

**Schedule:** Social Hour: 5:30 - 6:30 Cash Bar  
Opening Ceremony: 6:30 Family Style Dinner (Broasted Chicken, Beef Tips, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, Gravy, Vegetable and Dessert, with Milk, Coffee and Water)

**Cost:** \$30.00 per person

**Housing:** Hotel accommodations on your own available in New London (20 minutes) AmericInn or Quality Inn, Appleton (20 minutes) Multiple selections, Oneida (25 minutes) Radisson, or Green Bay (40 minutes)

**RSVP:** Register online at <https://bit.ly/FAMTEST>

OR make checks payable to Shiocton Unit 512 and return as follows:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

No. Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ (@ \$30/person) Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Linda Coppock  
N3894 Loss Rd  
Weyauwega, WI 54983

RSVP NO LATER THAN MAY 10, 2023



## OSSEO HOLDS FIRST MEETING FOR '23 BASEBALL/SOFTBALL



American Legion's Carl Nelson Osseo Post 324 holds their 1st 2023 season Baseball/Softball meeting at Post Headquarters Cabin in The Pines, Osseo, WI 54758. Pictured is coach Matt Korger (center, Thunder sweatshirt) spearheading the discussion along with new members, (L to R) Dave Mendoza, JulieAnn, Dennis Larson (continual member) and new member Kenneth Melby. The new members donned their brand-new Legion covers and all members listened with enthusiasm as we embark on this new Journey of American Legion Softball! Not pictured is Coach Josh Anderson and his Assistant Jacob Featherly.

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



## FRENCH LEGION MEDAL OF HONOR



LEFT: WWII Veteran James Honeck receiving the French Legion Medal of Honor for his heroism on Omaha Beach. Legion Post 449 Honor Guard was asked to make the presentation to James on behalf of the French Consulate. RIGHT: American Legion Post 449 Honor Guard presented the French Legion Medal of Honor to James Honeck. Shown above are Bill Roche, Leigh Rainer, Joseph Bragg, Frank Strenisha, Jane Honeck, John Mahoney and 1st District Service Officer Richard Strehlow.

## 2023 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



[wilegion.org/legion-baseball](http://wilegion.org/legion-baseball)



[wilegion.org/legion-softball](http://wilegion.org/legion-softball)

## SAVE THE DATE

All-Star Weekend  
Milwaukee, WI

August 5 All-Star Banquet  
August 6 All-Star Game  
following the Brewers vs  
Pirates game  
[wilegion.org/all-star](http://wilegion.org/all-star)

## MEMBERS OF POST 539 SHARE THE LOVE ON VALENTINE'S DAY



Madelyn LaCanne Post 539 celebrated Valentine's with members Rose Kerstetter (104) and Bernice Laurent (101). LEFT: Cory Ulbrich, Carol Johnson, Jo Ann Schedler with Rose. RIGHT: Flowers, candy and flowers brought smiles to Bernice.

## 2023 Junior Shooting Sports Quick Facts



Thirty-eight (38) participants from four (4) clubs registered for The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin's 2023 Junior Shooting Sports Postal Match. Of these 38, 36 returned used targets.

### Senior Division Scholarship Winners

1st place, \$1000 scholarship and trophy will be awarded to Eli Muckler  
2nd place, \$750 scholarship and trophy will be awarded to Kaylee Kleinhans  
3rd place, \$250 scholarship and trophy will be awarded to Ben Widder

### Junior Division Trophy Winner

Hunter McKnight, with a total score of 213.9.

### Beginner Division Trophy Winner

No beginner shooter in 2023

### Team Trophy Winner

1st place, Plymouth American Legion Air Rifle Club, with a combined score of their top four shooters totaling 964.9 points will receive a trophy for top honors.  
2nd place, Washington County 4-H had a 2nd place team score of 829.1 points.  
3rd place, American Legion Post 220/308 Club came in 3rd with 688.3 points.



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## SAL SQUADRON 294 HOLDS SLEEPOUT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR HOMELESS VETS



SAL Squadron 294 held a sleepout on February 10-11 to raise money for homeless Veterans of Wisconsin. AT LEFT: SAL members Kevin Nold and Troy Ludtke try to stay warm. ABOVE: Commander Pape with a fraction of all the people who came to support the event.

## HARTFORD POST 19 QUILT OF HONOR



On March 2, 2023 this Quilt was presented to Legionnaire Bradley P. Mielke by Commander Allen Schoessow at the Hartford Post 19 meeting. Quilt made by St. Luke Lutheran Church Blessed Quilters of Slinger, Wisconsin.

### REMINDER

Watch the website for important awards.  
Due May 1 and June 1.  
[wilegion.org/awards](http://wilegion.org/awards)

## POST 187 EVENTS



ABOVE: Wisconsin Dells Post 187 donates \$1,000 to Dogs2DogTags. TOP LEFT: Wisconsin Dells Post 187 donates \$1,000 to Quilts of Valor. BOTTOM LEFT: Pat Walsh receives his 50-year certificate.

## McFARLAND POST 534 FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY



In early February, the McFarland American Legion Post 534 held its annual flag retirement ceremony at the McFarland American Legion post. Legion members retired more than 380 flags. Pictured are Russel Jenkins, Cory Guessler, Mike Brennan and Dale Sankey retiring the flags.

## COURTNEY-CARR-MILNER POST 19 PRESENTS ANNUAL AWARDS



LEFT: Courtney-Carr-Milner Post 19 in Hartford on March 2 presented Legionnaire of the Year to Thomas A. Paine. RIGHT: On March 13 at the Hartford Fire & Rescue Kyle Wenzel was awarded Firefighter of the Year and Benjamin M. Hoffmann EMT of the Year. Presenting the awards was Post Commander Allen Schoessow.



## A LOT TO CELEBRATE FOR MADELYN LACANNE POST 539

At the March meeting, in honor of the American Legion birthday, Madelyn LaCanne Post 539 new members Rebecca Mertens and Bev Van Lieshout were initiated into the Post and membership longevity stars were presented.



Kelly Snethen (above right) earned her 5-year star as did Jennifer Eng (below right).



Holly Hoppe and Sue Snethen 30 years of loyal Legion service.



Happy new members Becca and Bev.

## POST 207 DONATION OF 34 AMERICAN FLAGS, 20 FLAGPOLES



Village of Elmwood President Paul Unser receives a donation of 34 American Flags and 20 flagpoles from the Elmwood American Legion Post 207. L to R – Jerry Thompson, Finance Officer; Jerry Buerkle, Member; Pat Hines, Vice-Commander; Paul Unser, Village President; Dean Marsh, Adjutant; Dave Hauschildt, Chaplain; Gordy Wurtz, Member.

## ELEVEN FROM POST 109 GO ON FALL HONOR FLIGHT

Lancaster Post 109 had 11 Veterans go on the Fall Honor Flight last year.



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### SAL SQUADRON 522 GIVES TO VETSNET



On Monday, February 6, 2023, the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 522 in Hubertus, had the privilege of having Quentin Hatfield speak at their monthly meeting. Quentin is the Executive Director of Wisconsin Veterans Network (VetsNet). This organization goes above and beyond the call of duty, making sure our Veterans and their families get the support they need when other organizations fall short. VetsNet eliminates the red tape and bureaucracy in a Veteran's time of need throughout the state of Wisconsin. As a result of their 2022 fundraising efforts, the Squadron was proud to present Quentin with a check for \$1,000 for the continuing efforts of VetsNet. To learn more about this organization please visit their website here: <https://www.wisvetsnet.org/>.

### POST 340 BERLIN SERVICE AWARD



A service award was presented to Wilbert Drecktrah for his many years of dedicated service as a post officer (Commander and Adjutant, at times he was both). Wilbert recently stepped down as post adjutant but continues to be a valuable resource for the post. Thank You Bill! Pictured from l to r: Commander Carlton Nehring, Wilbert Drecktrah, Adjutant Steve Klika.

### POST 395 HONORS KINGSTON FOR FLAG DISPLAY



On February 13, Post 395 of Kingston awarded the Village of Kingston a plaque for the "Proper Displaying of the U.S. Flag." This is a contest that Post 395 is doing to spread Americanism.





Larry Schaefer was born in 1927 and passed away in 2022. He grew up in New York City and enlisted in the U.S. Navy serving through WWII. After the Navy, he got a degree in Electrical Engineering and met his wife Otty in Geneva, Switzerland.



Ed White served in the Army at Hamburg, Germany with the 3rd U.S. Army, assigning soldiers throughout Europe. Ed attributes his greatest opportunities in life to playing American Legion Baseball.



In 1944, Bucky Lippitt enlisted in the Coast Guard and served as a shore landing pilot in the European Theater. Bucky explained that after Germany surrendered, he and other G.I.s trained for what many believed would be an invasion of Japan. After discharge in 1946, he met his wife Barbara and they were married in 1949 at the famous "Little Brown Church" in Iowa, though both are from Wisconsin.



Donald Helfrecht attended UW-Madison as a member of ROTC and received a BS in Electrical Engineering in 1944. At graduation, he commissioned as a 2nd LT then trained at the Army's Signal Corps school at Fort Monmouth, NJ. Soon afterward he was sent to the Pacific, where he served in the Philippines. *U.S. Army Photo courtesy of Badger Honor Flight.*



Leland Stafford was serving as an airman at Truax Field, Madison, when he got orders to report to a Florida base for flight training. On their way to Florida, he and his fiancée stopped at a justice-of-the-peace in Champaign, IL to marry. The justice asked if they had witnesses, which they didn't. It was a rainy day and Leland went outside and saw a group of young people and asked if they wanted to get out of the rain. They came inside and witnessed the marriage.



Karen Helfrecht receiving Citation from Chris Ogden on behalf of her Father Donald.

## POST 151 HONORS FIVE WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Post 151 recently honored five members -- one posthumously -- who served in World War II. The decision to honor our WWII Veterans came about during discussion in 2022 about 'buddy checks.' Chris Ogden, our post adjutant, suggested we not just make phone calls but visit them and present citations recognizing their meritorious service during WWII and their

loyalty to the nation, the Legion, and the post.

Over a two-week period in February 2023, Mike George, Post Commander, and Chris Ogden, Adjutant, met with the WWII Veterans and their families. They were all thankful for the visits and citations. Sadly, one Veteran passed away in 2022 but his wife and son received the citation on his behalf

just before the memorial service to honor his life.

"We're really glad we were able to do this," said Chris Ogden. "The best part was listening to the stories these guys told us. It wasn't really all about their wartime experience. Mostly they reminisced about what they were doing before they joined up, how they met their wives, and the opportunities they had after the war."

## LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR FOR 6TH DISTRICT

Charles "Chuck" Augustine of Wagner-Eberle-Sukowaty American Legion Post 477 St. Nazianz was selected as 6th District Legionnaire of the Year on February 11. This was the second consecutive year that a member of Post 477 was selected for the prestigious award. Chuck accepted the award surrounded by members of Post 477 and its auxiliary unit. Pictured from left to right: Nancy Rivera, Mike Hartmann, Cecile Koenig, Angela Koenig, Dean Koenig, Chris Bestul, Chuck Augustine, Sandi Augustine, Julie Muhle (Wisconsin State Commander), Mary Klien, Mary Augustine, Bernie Booth and Jerry Augustine.





### POST 11 DONATES COOK-OFF PROCEEDS



Mike Piccard and Cathy Landry presenting Brown County Service Officer Joe Aulik with a check from our Chili Cookoff. Photo by Cathy Landry, historian.

### POST 11 ACKNOWLEDGES MEMBERS



ABOVE: Members of Post 11 receiving certificates of appreciation for their service to scouting. BELOW: Members of Post 11 receiving their certificates and pins for completion of Funeral Honor Guard training. Photos by Cathy Landry, historian.



### TEXAS ROADHOUSE GIFT CARD DONATIONS



American Legion Pewaukee Post 71 partnered with Texas Roadhouse over Veterans Day. Texas Roadhouse took in donations from customers for Veterans and turned that into \$850 worth of gift cards. The gift cards were given to Post 71 and in turn Commander John Wallenfang dropped them off at the Waukesha Service Officer's office for them to be distributed to Veterans in need.

## Show your support for

2023 ★ 2024



# AMERICAN LEGION

## Daniel J. Seehafer

CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL COMMANDER  
2023-2024



# FAMILY: "IT'S EVERYTHING"

By Denise Rohan  
Past National Commander

It's hard to believe it's been two years since I reached out to you about Dan's campaign for National Commander. I couldn't be more proud of the things Dan has accomplished and continues to accomplish on behalf of The American Legion Family.

*Dan continues to be humbled by your support and the support of his entire campaign team.* He values your friendship, counsel, and assistance. The community we call "The American Legion" is integral to him and his family and inspires his love for our Veterans. Michael J. Fox once said, "Family is not an important thing. It's everything." Dan and I share in his belief that family is everything.

We are now just *five months away from election day in Charlotte, North Carolina*, and every second counts. Dan will take his "Be the One" message to fifteen more Departments in those few short months. *From Alaska to Arkansas*, he will engage our Legion Family on the most critical issues facing our Veterans today. Issues like mental health and suicide prevention through our "Be the One" campaign. The VA healthcare modernization, the PACT Act, and the concurrent receipt for those com-



bat-related injuries that qualify for both retirement and service-connected disabilities. And, of course, the protection of our American flag. The Wisconsin American Legion Family is always in his heart and is reflected in the values he carries on his journey across the country.

For Dan to engage Veterans like you and me, *he needs your support.* If you can, I hope you'll help us keep this incredible momentum go-

ing by *joining our grassroots team with a donation* to the campaign. *Even twenty dollars would make a big difference.* Your commitment to Dan creates a movement capable of significant change.

On behalf of Dan and the entire campaign team, we thank you for serving this great nation and supporting Dan and his journey to be the next National Commander of the American Legion.

### Daniel J. Seehafer — Candidate for National Commander

Dan, I support your campaign for National Commander. To help you get over the top in your campaign for National Commander, I have enclosed my special gift of:

\$20    \$40    \$60    \$100    \$500    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my gift to:    Check    Visa    MasterCard    American Express

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Unit/Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable and mail to:  
Daniel J. Seehafer for National Commander  
W7550 Shady Lane  
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

It's Personal!  
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Thank you for your support!





## FOUR CHAPLAINS DAY EVENT HELD IN TOMAHAWK

For the first time since the COVID pandemic began in 2020, the Tomahawk American Legion and Tomahawk Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2687 held a joint memorial ceremony to recognize Four Chaplains Day at the Legion Post, 327 W. Wisconsin Avenue in Tomahawk.

The first Sunday of February serves as a designated day of remembrance for the four U.S. Army Chaplains, who, early on February 3, 1943, perished in the frigid waters of the North Atlantic Ocean aboard the sinking U.S. Army transport ship *Dorchester*, after it had been torpedoed by a German submarine.

**TOP LEFT:** The four chaplains' photos (left to right): Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist Minister; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic Priest; Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed Minister; Lt. Alexander D. Goode Jewish Rabbi.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Four Chaplains Day Ceremony participants (left to right): Phil Zipp, Tomahawk VFW Post 2687; Robin Gray, Post 93 Chaplain and Senior Officer; Tom Garrigan, Post 93 Commander; Gerry Johnson, Wisconsin American Legion 11th District Commander; and Terry Hagar, Post 93 Sergeant at Arms. All are also members of the Tomahawk Area Veterans' Honor Guard.



## CAMP AMERICAN LEGION . . .

### MOTHER NATURE SLOWS PREPERATION FOR BUSY SUMMER



**Jim Klement**  
Camp American  
Legion Director

Today is the first day of spring and when we look out the window all I see is snow. We still have around 17 inches on the ground that needs to melt. The forecast still predicts possible snow for the rest of the week. Mother Nature may slow us down a bit but Camp American Legion is getting ready for one of the busiest summers in a long time.

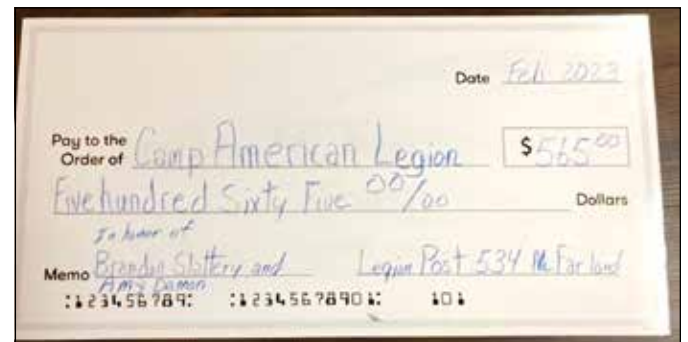
The first week in May we will start the long process of Camp opening. This starts with our water crew coming up and turning on all the water. Once we have running water all the sponsors come up and get their prospective cabin ready. They go through the entire cabin and perform the necessary cleaning and repairs.

This year Camp American Legion was selected to host the Department Spring Meetings on the 12th and 13th of May. A special thanks to Colin F. Shultz American Legion Post 318 from Lake Tomahawk for providing lunch. I hope to have a full camp and nice weather for the meetings.

Camp American Legion has been blessed this year to be booked for the entire summer already. We have waitlists set up for each week so if you have not yet submitted an application, please apply. We always get some cancellations throughout the year.

On the 26th of May, Camp American Legion is having their annual Volunteer Recruitment Day starting at 1pm. If you have ever considered volunteering this would be a great time to come and see Camp and meet other volunteers and staff. Monica, our Recreation and Volunteer Coordinator, does an amazing job and she has a schedule that you can sign up immediately for our open slots. Camp has some of the best volunteers and we could

### POST 534 DONATES TO CAMP AMERICAN LEGION



Post 534's fundraiser to support Camp American Legion brought in \$565. The donation was in honor of Brandon Slattery and Amy Damon.

not operate camp without them.

Please contact Camp if you have any questions on how you can become involved in Camp American Legion.

Jim Klement  
Camp Director  
715-277-2510

To learn more about the mission of Camp American Legion or to get involved with answering the call, visit [wilegion.org](http://wilegion.org) or find us on Facebook.



*"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





## 70 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE TO POST 477

Marion Lenz was honored for 70 years of continuous membership in Post 477 Auxiliary Unit. Pictured: Unit 477 President Sandi Augustine, Marion Lenz (age 95) and Post 477 Commander Dean Koenig.



Sandra M. Kramer, current Chef de Gare of 40 et 8 Locale 1261. Also a member of The American Legion Post 13, their Past Commander, and a member of The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13 and their Past President.

## POST 38 DONATES TO OLD GLORY HONOR FLIGHT

Pictured left to right: Post 38 Commander, Ed Domek, Rick Eisenach, and Old Glory Honor Flight Board Member, Drew McDonald.



## RICHLAND CENTER POST 13 DONATION TURNS 5-GALLON BUCKETS INTO SNARE DRUMS

These 5th and 6th graders were playing on 5-gallon buckets bought at the local hardware store. After the Veterans Day Program last year, the school music teacher shared that her budget would not allow for purchases of new or used snare drums. To have a future band you need to start with these young ones, so I worked with the men's and women's Veteran Orga-

nizations around Richland Center, WI and put a plan in motion. We received over \$1,600 in donations from the various Veterans Organizations and some personal donations as well. We had \$1,200 left over after the purchase of three drums with stands. This money also went to the band department for whatever they need. This was a very successful venture for the kids.



Paul Fisk  
Legislative Chair

## ★★★★ LEGISLATIVE CHAIR ★★★★★

Not all legislative activity takes place in Washington D.C. The reality is the policies set at the state and local levels have a bigger effect on each of us. On March 30 the Assembly Ways and Means Committee held a public hearing on AB-102. This bill lowers the threshold for disabled Veterans and surviving spouses to claim this valuable tax credit from 100% to 70%.

The Governor has a similar proposal in the budget submitted to the legislature. The American Legion, Disabled Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars have been working on this policy for at least five years.

The legislative Fiscal Bureau estimates that adoption of this bill will increase state spending by \$18.5 million.

While that is a substantial sum of money, we must consider that at the household level. As we examine the current recipients, we see that they reside in all 72 counties. 67% of the recipient households have an adjusted gross income of less than \$30,000. In other words, approximately \$10,000 over the federal poverty level for a family of two. This is half the median income in Wisconsin. In 2020 the average credit was \$3,205.

The Veterans receiving this credit in general have the greatest need. They will put this money back into the local economy. It buys food, gas for the car, or maybe keeps the lights on. While \$18.5 million is a large increase in the program, it is a matter of survival for some Veterans.

You can help by telling your state legislator to support AB-102.

## ★★★★ CHAPLAIN'S CORNER ★★★★★

Post, County and District chaplains, mark your calendars for the Chaplains Retreat, 19-21 May at Camp American Legion. Be prepared for a weekend to meet with your fellow chaplains for instruction, a time of sharing, fellowship and a time of relaxation. This year, we will take as many applicants as Camp American Legion can handle. There is no cost for the retreat except for the gas money for travel. Meals and camp accommodations are provided by the camp because of previous donations. We will take a freewill offering at the end of the retreat to support the camp.

The agenda is being prepared and consists of the roles of a chaplain, services a chaplain may perform or be involved with and sharing experiences and tips in performing your role effectively. Suggestions for additional topics are welcome and can be addressed to me. Plan to arrive Friday at mealtime and depart Sunday around noon. If you

would like to attend, please contact me at jaggessner801@gmail.com or contact the camp directly for an application. Retreat guests must be Wisconsin residents to attend. The camp's email is caloffice@wilegion.org.

Elsewhere around the state, some of us attended the Midwinter conference in Green Bay in January. Committee meetings, training events, a Saturday night dinner and entertainment, and Sunday's district executive meeting filled the agenda. The next major statewide event will be the summer convention in July in Wausau. Watch for news on this event. The new commander and executive committee will be elected at this time.

If you desire to get on the chaplains mailing list, please contact me at the email address above. I will periodically contact you about news and information concerning your role as chaplains. Thanks for your service to God and Country and to our Wisconsin American Legion.

# BACK TO BASICS TOUR

## POST RIDE PARTY

★ JULY 19, 2023  
4:00 PM - 9:00 PM

★ BULL FALLS ★  
★ HARLEY - DAVIDSON ★  
1570 CTY. RD. XX,  
★ ROTHSCHILD, WI 54474 ★



FOOD TRUCKS



LIVE MUSIC



DRINKS





**John D. Michels**  
Membership  
Coordinator

★ **MEMBERSHIP** ★

## A TIME TO THAW

Greetings from Wisconsin Membership and a blessed spring to you all. Lord knows we have earned it. Currently, local posts are either hitting the 90% mark in membership or closely approaching it, and we already have three districts who have exceeded their 90% goal.

Unfortunately, we as a state just missed the 90% goal set for March 15, the first time we have missed the mark over the last 9 months. Nonetheless, it is refreshing to see all the new members joining and to see the activity to induce members of Post 2930 Headquarters to transfer and participate in their local posts. Thanks to all of you who are making that effort to grow your posts.

On the other hand, our Squadron numbers are mighty impressive, and, as I have stated before, it is heartening to see fathers and sons joining the Sons of The American Legion, planting the roots for future growth and vitality. If your post doesn't have a squadron and you are looking for one way to help revitalize your post and give it a stronger presence in your community, give serious consideration and effort to formulating and building up a squadron in your area. I am here to assist you on this journey, so don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Let's also help to promote the beginning of Legion Softball as a way to attract new members. Community backing of local teams is a key part of this, and posts can lead the charge by being out in front when it comes to sponsorship. A local softball coordinator and coach, for example, gave a presentation to a charitable organization in one of our local communities, and it has agreed to donate all of its proceeds from an upcoming fish fry to support its local Legion Softball team. So, with the combination of Legion Baseball and now softball, we double our community presence. If this doesn't stimulate growth and participation in our posts and squadrons, I will be surprised.

So, as we move into spring, let's shake off the frozen snow from our shoulders and spring clean and reopen your hearts, and let's promote The American Legion and all that it does to make our communities in Wisconsin a great place to service and honor our military Veterans and their families and to encourage the Veterans and their families of tomorrow.

## VETERANS DAY DISPLAY AT GERMANTOWN BANK



**ABOVE: Mary Brown, a member of Germantown Post 1 and VFW Post 9202, put together a display for Veterans Day at the Germantown branch of Associated Bank. The display was up for the month of November 2022. Honoring the Navy, a WWII uniform from Post 1 and Vietnam uniform from Post 1 and VFW 9202 member Steve Boguszewski, were displayed. Artifacts and pictures from Post 1 were arranged by Mary Brown for the display. Out of 300 Associated Bank branches, Germantown's presentation was one of 6 to receive \$250. The \$250 award was split equally between Post 1 and VFW Post 9202. Submitted by Neal Degner 1st Vice-Commander/Adjutant. AT RIGHT: Mary Brown on right presenting the \$125 check to Post 1 Commander Kristi Bonnell.**



### 2023 & 2024 TOURS

sponsored by GRHS

**July 30, 2023: FABULOUS AFRICA**

This tour visits Botswana (Chobe Game Park), Zambia, Zimbabwe (Victoria Falls), South Africa (Kruger Game Park), fly to Port Elizabeth and do the Garden Route (for whale watching) to Cape Town. **LIMITED PARTICIPANTS.**

**October 17, 2023: SICILY & ITALY**

Palermo, Agrigento with the Valley of Temples, Siracusa, Taormina and to the top of Mt. Etna in Sicily before we fly to Naples, Italy and visit Pompeii, the Amalfi coast, Sorrento and then go on to Rome, Sienna, Florence, Ravenna and end in Venice. **Sign up deadline March 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**April 27, 2024: GREECE**

You'll see everything from the Acropolis in Athens to Olympia, where the Olympic games began in 776 AC.

**June 2-14, 2024: 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-day**

Visiting Holland, Belgium, France and Germany-WWI & WWII sights. **NEW!** I have included many WWI sights and all of the WWII sights of my previous tours. **Tour already half sold!**

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**James Bond**  
WDVA  
Secretary-  
Designee

★★★★ **WDVA SECRETARY** ★★★★★

Greetings Legionnaires! In the relatively few weeks I've been the Secretary-designee, I've been focusing on meeting with representatives of groups that serve Veterans, like the American Legion. My message to them is this – no one can do this alone. We need each other. Over the years, relationships between the Wisconsin DVA and stakeholders have had their ups and downs. My top priority is strengthening the relationships DVA has with all stakeholders. It's not only my top priority, but also the priority of each and every one of my new leadership team.

As Deputy Secretary, I witnessed what we can accomplish when we partner with others in service for Veterans and their families. Our steadfast collaboration and commitment are vital to making progress in our communities. We rely on many solid partnerships with other state and federal agencies, legislators, community organizations and resources, Veterans service organizations, and their passionate volunteers to make it happen for our state's Veterans. I promise you that I will work every day to strengthen those partnerships.

These partnerships will be central to making progress on my remaining priorities, including raising awareness of Wisconsin's Veterans programs and services; retaining and attracting Veterans to live and work in our state; addressing mental health needs, including suicide prevention and home-

lessness; and telling the story of the great work our three state Veterans Homes staff are doing under difficult circumstances while also continuing to focus on improving care.

Like many of you, I was excited to see Governor Evers announced budget initiatives in support of those who have served. The budget includes increased funding for our three Veterans Homes, vital support for those at-risk Veterans needing housing assistance, employment, substance abuse recovery, mental health support services, and more. These initiatives are a direct result of the work of the Governor's Blue-Ribbon Commission on Veteran Opportunity last year, including crucial input from Wisconsin's American Legion.

This year also marks the 30th anniversary of our Wisconsin Veterans Museum in its current location on the Capitol Square in downtown Madison. It has stood as a stalwart reminder of our Veterans' service and sacrifices for all those elected officials who represent Wisconsin citizens. I am excited to see what new stories will be featured at the Museum in the coming year. If you have not been there recently, I encourage you to stop by.

Finally, women Veterans should save the date for our annual WDVA Women Veterans Retreat set for June 2 and 3 at Trinity Equestrian Center in Eau Claire. All details and registration can be found at [WisVetsWomen.com](http://WisVetsWomen.com).

Now that spring is here and the days are finally getting longer, we will soon be able to enjoy our warm weather holidays, outdoor gatherings, and Veterans' events across our state. I hope to see you at one or more of those events.



## HEALING WARRIOR HEARTS RETREAT



Members from Pewaukee Post 71's Honor Guard posted the Colors on January 22 at the Healing Warrior Hearts Retreat.

# The Last Bugle



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



**James Fialkowski**  
Department Veteran  
Service Officer

### ★★★ VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER ★★★

## THERE IS MORE TO THE PACT ACT THAN MEETS THE EYE

I wrote an article about the PACT Act and how the law expands VA health care and access to other benefits. I added another with more information on the VA health care special enrollment period that started October 1, 2022 and ends October 1, 2023. This article is reaching out to those who may be unwittingly missing their benefits (especially surviving spouses of Veterans).

With the concession of so many added areas and presumptive disability benefits for exposures to radiation, Agent Orange (AO), and other toxins, this immensely expands the pool of who qualifies to receive benefits. Knowing they qualify is another thing altogether. To

file a claim is easy for the Veteran who knows they were exposed to a toxin and has a new presumptive disability on the list. The evasive claims are harder to recognize. What about disabilities not on the list? What about those left behind, who don't get the word? What about Veterans who passed away from something that was caused by something on the list?

There are disabilities on lists that could lead to other disabilities. Example, hypertension (Newly added to the AO presumptive list) is known to cause several maladies, including strokes and aneurysms. There are more...

Here is a refresher on some of the expanded areas granted by the PACT Act. For Agent Orange exposure, added areas are any United States or Royal Thai base in Thailand from January 9, 1962,

to June 30, 1976, Laos from December 1, 1965, to September 30, 1969, Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969, to April 30, 1969, Guam or American Samoa, or in the territorial waters thereof, from January 9, 1962, to July 31, 1980, and on Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972, to September 30, 1977.

The PACT Act added, Afghanistan, Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Syria, and Jordan to the Persian Gulf Veteran definition, which was Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations. It also changed the requirements for qualifying Persian Gulf illness to "became manifest to any degree at any time".

For (airborne toxins) burn pits and other toxic exposure for GWOT Veterans it concedes exposure to those who served in any of these locations on or after September 11, 2001: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan, Yemen, The airspace above any of these locations or on or after August 2, 1990, in any of these locations: Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, The United Arab Emirates (UAE), The airspace above any of these locations.

The law also expanded acceptance to radiation exposure to certain Veterans who were part of the Cleanup of Enewetak Atoll from January 1, 1977, to December 31, 1980 or an on-site participation in the response efforts concerning United States Air Force B-52 bomber mishaps that caused the release of thermonuclear weapons in the vicinity of Palomares, Spain, during the period of January 17, 1966, to March 31, 1967 and in the vicinity of Thule Air Force Base, Greenland, from January 21, 1968, to September 25, 1968. The radiation disability list is extensive and basically includes all cancers.

I understand, this is a lot of technical information. Bottom line, if you or someone you know served in the military or are a surviving spouse of a Veteran, check with your local CVSO or our Service Office to see if you are missing out on benefits.

<b>1 Germantown</b> Thomas Filsinger	V	<b>27 South Milwaukee</b> Gary Arthur	V
<b>3 Antigo</b> Carl Ishmael	V	Reynaldo Reyes	V
<b>4 Athens</b> Jerome Wagner	K	<b>29 Kewaunee</b> John Recker	K
<b>5 Patch Grove</b> Charles Quick	WWII	<b>30 Edgerton</b> Albert Ruosch	V
<b>6 Stevens Point</b> Ronald Borski	V	<b>31 Milwaukee</b> Stephen Foster	V
<b>7 Rhinelander</b> Bernard Biernier	WWII	<b>33 Neenah</b> Ronald Wege	V
<b>8 Waukesha</b> Clifford Stanisch	V	Neale Cafilisch	WWII
<b>9 Wisconsin Rapids</b> Frank Gruber	K	Martha Everts	V
Merle Ross	WWII	David Gauthier	V
<b>10 Wausau</b> Michael Delaney	PG	Daniel Goggin	K
Wallace Streich	K	<b>36 West Bend</b> Ken Muenchow	K
Gerald Ziegel	G/L	Allan Kieckhafer	WWII
Gary Zastrow	V	<b>38 Appleton</b> Robert Mulheron	V
Philip Pomrening	K	Dale Rice	K
Charles Helke	WWII	Raymond Howard	GWOT
<b>11 Green Bay</b> Angelo Cali	V	Richard Hansen	K
Robert Plog	K	Daniel Schultz	K
Karl Vanroy	V	John Knostenberg	
Richard Vogel	WWII	<b>42 Platteville</b> Joe Ingram	K
Bernard Zilles	V	<b>44 Wabeno</b> Leonard Zellner	K
Daniel Aylward	K	Kenneth Finnemore	K
Donald Davids	K	Thomas Larock	V
<b>13 Richland Center</b> Keith Craig	K	<b>47 Portage</b> Richard Branshaw	K
<b>14 Iola</b> William Mortensen	V	<b>48 Beloit</b> Delmar Kipp	K
<b>18 Milwaukee</b> Betty Mitchell	V	Larry Fry	
<b>19 Harford</b> Gerald Geisthardt	K	Chester Kaminski	K
<b>21 Kenosha</b> Lillian Jilk	WWII	<b>51 West Salem</b> Paul Poehling	G/L
Frank Metallo	K	George Gersch	V
Maurice Carroll	V	Gary Willinger	V
Steven McCormick	V	<b>52 La Crosse</b> Robert Stigen	K
<b>24 Lake Geneva</b> Bruce Hansen	V	James Grant	PG
<b>26 Baraboo</b> Gary Breunig	V	Gary Schock	V
Leilani Wall	PG	Paul Zei	K
Al Dippel	K	Henry Leibl	K
		Martin Callaway	K
		<b>53 Eau Claire</b> Clay Whitcome	V
		Jerome Weisser	V
		Gerald Paulson	K
		Lawrence Lindquist	K
		Roger McEvoy	V

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PLUS

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# 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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

<b>53 Eau Claire</b>		Laverne Kuhnke	K
Llewellyn Higley	K	Gerald Miller	V
Walter Swoboda	V	Bud White	K
<b>54 Marshfield</b>		Kenneth Mullikin	
John Hay	K	<b>80 New Richmond</b>	
Leroy Hollingsworth	K	Elven Conklin	K
David Schug	V	William Owens	V
Gary Alfredson	V	<b>81 Mauston</b>	
Raymond Hartl	K	Joseph Chmielewski	WWII
William Oblack	V	Bernard Miller	K
<b>55 Hortonville</b>		Raymond Austin	V
Edward Probst	V	<b>82 Port Washington</b>	
James Cotter	K	Melvin Prom	K
<b>59 Stoutton</b>		<b>83 Sheboygan</b>	
Philip Douglas	K	Donald Ash	V
Daniel Rosenbaum	PG	<b>84 Monroe</b>	
Clarence Rumpel	K	Fritz Wenger	K
Bryce Starkey	V	<b>85 Muscoda</b>	
Russell Kuczora	V	Jesse Lewis	WWII
Francis Kopf	V	George Elder	V
<b>60 Kimberly</b>		<b>87 Rice Lake</b>	
Donald Weyenberg	K	Paul Amacher	V
Jack Wydeven	WWII	Forrest Fazel	V
Gerald Kempen	K	<b>88 Manitowoc</b>	
<b>63 Clintonville</b>		Bruce Anderson	V
Vilas Mazemke	V	James Dewein	K
Herbert Behl	K	Robert Krejcie	V
<b>67 Lake Mills</b>		Allen Karl	K
Thomas Serocki	K	John Herpst	V
Robert Strakeljahn	WWII	Mark Duzeski	V
Edward Szafranski	WWII	<b>89 Minocqua</b>	
<b>69 Mayville</b>		Kieth Bullion	V
Louis Benter	K	<b>90 Ashland</b>	
Lloyd Schwartzmiller	K	John Yachnich	K
<b>70 Oshkosh</b>		<b>91 Oconomowoc</b>	
Charles Hayes	V	Emil Ewald	WWII
Thomas Krueger	V	Charles Haller	V
<b>72 Sturgeon Bay</b>		Donald Kasten	K
John Dempster	K	Laverne Bleifuss	K
Robert Carney	V	Harry Snyder	V
Frank Bley	K	<b>93 Tomahawk</b>	
James Slappy	K	Kenneth Zemske	WWII
<b>73 Neillsville</b>		<b>94 Crandon</b>	
Timothy Betz	V	Earl Cummings	WWII
Richard Johnson	WWII	Robert Davis	V
<b>74 Oconto</b>		<b>95 Delavan</b>	
Michael Boyle	PG	John Obrien	K
<b>75 Fond du Lac</b>		Donald Jonuska	V
Charles Dummer	V	<b>97 Dodgeville</b>	
John Talaska	K	David Wilke	K
Roger Flitter	K	<b>98 Cumberland</b>	
<b>77 Chippewa Falls</b>		Don Marske	V
Charles Kemper	WWII	Richard Grover	K
<b>79 Burlington</b>		Richard Johnson	V
Alphonse Strelbicki	K	<b>100 Sparta</b>	
		Keith Kenyon	K
		James Crocker	V

<b>103 Galesville</b>		Kenneth Schaefer	PG
<b>106 Seymour</b>		Tiffini Lyons	PG
<b>110 New Lisbon</b>		Richard Swenson	K
<b>111 Somerset</b>		Kenneth Bierl	V
<b>114 Eagle River</b>		Eugene Garraty	V
<b>117 Shawano</b>		Roy Haupt	WWII
Gerald Lamberies	WWII		
<b>118 Thorp</b>		David Fredrickson	V
<b>120 West Allis</b>		Harold Junek	WWII
Jerome Selear	V		
<b>121 River Falls</b>		Tod Fredericks	V
Larry Rasmussen	V		
<b>125 Chilton</b>		Daniel Albedyll	K
<b>131 Colfax</b>		Dennis Karaba	G/L
<b>132 Siren</b>		Michael Plaster	V
<b>133 Camp Douglas</b>		Gene Schmidt	K
<b>138 Viroqua</b>		Leon Mellem	K
Wayne Stuber	V		
Joseph Young	K	<b>206 Wonewoc</b>	
<b>141 New Glarus</b>		Charles Ferguson	K
Peter Weix	P	<b>207 Elmwood</b>	
<b>146 Beaver Dam</b>		Merlin Place	K
James Bushey	V	<b>214 Darlington</b>	
Clinton Byrnes	K	Roy Shultz	V
<b>147 Medford</b>		<b>216 Lodi</b>	
Louis Mortenson	V	Travis Michel	K
<b>149 Sheboygan Falls</b>		<b>220 Soldiers Grove</b>	
Richard Schoneman	K	Raymond Runice	V
Jerry Baird	V	Peter Dillenburg	K
<b>151 Madison</b>		Robert Jorgensen	V
Don Stanek	K	<b>222 Campbellsport</b>	
Donald Schraufnagel	WWII	Richard Redman	WWII
Lawrence Schaefer	WWII	<b>223 Hillsboro</b>	
John Bowers	WWII	Steve Tondi	P
Kyle Green	K	<b>225 Shell Lake</b>	
<b>152 Menasha</b>		Daniel Livingston	WWII
Thomas Steffen	V	<b>229 Mount Hope</b>	
<b>153 Pittsville</b>		Arthur Fremont	K
Donald Heyen	K	Daniel Berge	V
Emil Mundt	WWII	<b>230 De Pere</b>	
Melvin Schiller	V	Marvin Wood	WWII
Kenneth Sherwood	WWII	<b>233 Waterloo</b>	
<b>154 Mondovi</b>		Alfred Stangler	V
John Herpst	K	Gary Hauptli	PG
Mark Duzeski	V	David Gorder	V
<b>155 Westby</b>		William Springer	V
Gary Theige	V	Lavern Lenius	K
Orin Larson	WWII	John Miescher	K
George Navrestad	K	John McDermott	V
<b>157 Horicon</b>		<b>238 Greenwood</b>	
Gene Bertelson	V	Richard Larson	K
<b>161 King</b>		<b>239 Tigerton</b>	
Leonard Borchert	K	Mike Wenner	V
Christopher Stanton	V	<b>240 Baldwin</b>	
John Krizan	K	David Webb	V
Gene Sorensen	K	<b>242 LaValle</b>	
<b>164 Jefferson</b>		David Meisch	V
Emmett Huston	V	Don Olson	K
Juan Phillips	V	<b>243 Plymouth</b>	
<b>165 Two Rivers</b>		Richard Degen	K
James Lewis	V	Wilbur Westphalen	K
<b>168 Glenwood City</b>		William Smith	K
Donald Munkwitz	WWII	<b>251 Argyle</b>	
<b>170 Mineral Point</b>		Donald Dammien	V
Donald Darrow	K	<b>254 Milltown</b>	
<b>173 Whitewater</b>		Patrick Hyden	V
Roy Nelson	K	<b>258 Little Chute</b>	
<b>181 Durand</b>		Reginald Hermesen	WWII
Daniel Wahl	K	John Van Lanen	V
Thomas Olson	V	<b>261 Greenbush</b>	
<b>182 Park Falls</b>		Merlin Miller	WWII
Robert Plachetka	WWII	<b>263 New London</b>	
William Helberg	V	Gerald Vanorum	V

<b>183 Genoa City</b>		John Hanny	V
Robert Neuhaus	V		
<b>186 Independence</b>		Alphonse Saverinski	K
<b>187 Wisconsin Dells</b>		Henry Bielski	V
Charles Brandt	WWII		
George Roudebush	V	<b>189 Watertown</b>	
Anthony Pish	V	<b>190 Reeseville</b>	
Darrell Ritter	V	<b>192 Franklin</b>	
Lawrence Schue	V	<b>196 Delafield</b>	
John Wyssling	WWII	John Wyssling	WWII
Brian Sajnog	V	<b>197 Brodhead</b>	
Robert Ross	WWII	<b>200 Black River Falls</b>	
Virginia Jewell	WWII	Samuel Young	WWII
Carl Harmsen	K	Bruce Hunter	V
James Lienlokken	V	James Lienlokken	V
<b>205 Janesville</b>		Richard Kennedy	V
Gerald Livengood	V	Stanley Dufrane	K
Lyle Kirkeeng	K	Lyle Noe	K
<b>206 Wonewoc</b>		Michael Mikush	V
Charles Ferguson	K	Gwen Stefanski	V
<b>207 Elmwood</b>		Mark Jaeger	V
Merlin Place	K	<b>310 Racine</b>	
<b>214 Darlington</b>		Albert Stefani	V
Roy Shultz	V	<b>313 Black Earth</b>	
<b>216 Lodi</b>		Arthur Jorgenson	V
Travis Michel	K	<b>317 Wautoma</b>	
<b>220 Soldiers Grove</b>		Charles Simonson	WWII
Raymond Runice	V	Ronald Yahnke	V
Peter Dillenburg	K	Robert Lemke	K
Robert Jorgensen	V	<b>322 Babcock</b>	
<b>222 Campbellsport</b>		Douglas Kuhlka	K
Richard Redman	WWII	<b>324 Osseo</b>	
Steve Tondi	P	Jack Curry	V
<b>225 Shell Lake</b>		<b>325 Goodman</b>	
Daniel Livingston	WWII	James Ellison	V
<b>229 Mount Hope</b>		<b>331 Shorewood</b>	
Arthur Fremont	K	Earl Primley	V
Daniel Berge	V	<b>333 Sun Prairie</b>	
<b>230 De Pere</b>		William Batterman	K
Marvin Wood	WWII	Virgil Schroeder	K
<b>233 Waterloo</b>		William Benze	K
Alfred Stangler	V	<b>336 Onalaska</b>	
Gary Hauptli	PG	Richard Risberg	K
David Gorder	V	Richard Hougom	K
William Springer	V	Gordon Summerfeld	K
Lavern Lenius	K	Gerald Guentner	V
John Miescher	K	Clarence Stellner	V
John McDermott	V	<b>337 Pulaski</b>	
<b>238 Greenwood</b>		Ray Mroczynski	K
Richard Larson	K	<b>347 Lomira</b>	
<b>239 Tigerton</b>		Donald Collien	V
Mike Wenner	V	Floyd Young	K
<b>240 Baldwin</b>		Franklin Serwe	K
David Webb	V	Frank Nonn	V
<b>242 LaValle</b>		<b>348 DeForest</b>	
David Meisch	V	John Conway	V
Don Olson	K	Warren Holsbo	V
<b>243 Plymouth</b>		<b>351 Montello</b>	
Richard Degen	K	Weldon Kempf	V
Wilbur Westphalen	K	<b>355 Grafton</b>	
William Smith	K	Lowell Liebenstein	V
<b>251 Argyle</b>		Melvin Eischen	WWII
Donald Dammien	V	George Hoffmann	K
<b>254 Milltown</b>		Richard Paulini	K
Patrick Hyden	V	Robin Stibbe	V
<b>258 Little Chute</b>		Robert Lambros	K
Reginald Hermesen	WWII	Anton Fatla	K
John Van Lanen	V	Allan Gauthier	GWOT
<b>261 Greenbush</b>		<b>356 Muskego</b>	
Merlin Miller	WWII	Peter Wingers	V
<b>263 New London</b>		<b>358 Unity</b>	
Gerald Vanorum	V	Norbert Martens	K

<b>264 Gilmanton</b>		Dallas Loesel	V
<b>265 Darboy</b>		Marlin Ehlert	K
<b>267 New Auburn</b>		Danny Kaempfer	V
Ronald Fetting	V	<b>367 Milton</b>	
<b>268 Bruce</b>		William Palmer	WWII
Arian Knops	V	<b>374 Lac du Flambeau</b>	
<b>269 Cushing</b>		Myron Hove	V
Clarence Letourneau	V	<b>375 Mukwonago</b>	
<b>270 Theresa</b>		Terrence Tomaszewski	V
Abigail Sauer	PG	Patrick Smalley	V
<b>277 Necedah</b>		<b>377 Elcho</b>	
Johnnie Lee	K	William Schey	WWII
David Steen	V	<b>382 Menomonee Falls</b>	
Frank Mazzoni	V	Marvin Harder	V
<b>284 Holmen</b>		Charles Weiss	K
Eugene Holseth	K	<b>384 Kewaskum</b>	
Salvatore Caputa	WWII	Dennis Zielicke	V
John Kramer	V	Dennis Anderson	V
<b>291 Augusta</b>		David Dreher	V
Dean Bruder	V	Richard Romaine	V
<b>294 Hartland</b>		Allan Bartkowiak	V
Richard Luko	K	<b>387 Franklin</b>	
Gordon Miller	K	George Schur	WWII
<b>295 Bloomer</b>		<b>391 Fremont</b>	
Richard Donahue	WWII	Darrell Glaser	V
<b>299 Hales Corners</b>		<b>393 Edgar</b>	
Harry Heileman	V	Billy Fergot	K
<b>303 Winter</b>		<b>394 Loretta</b>	
Duane Marten	V	Gerald Wells	V
<b>304 Palmyra</b>		<b>398 Plain</b>	
Michael Mikush	V	Gerald Kraemer	V
Gwen Stefanski	V	Robert Nachreiner	K
<b>305 Johnson Creek</b>		<b>403 Webb Lake</b>	
Mark Jaeger	V	Wade Hedemark	G/L
<b>310 Racine</b>		<b>404 Emerald</b>	
Albert Stefani	V	Thomas McAndrew	V
<b>313 Black Earth</b>		Theodore Jones	K
Arthur Jorgenson	V	<b>409 Lake Nebagamon</b>	
<b>317 Wautoma</b>		Donald Hennarichs	K
Charles Simonson	WWII	Howard Rice	K
Ronald Yahnke	V	Valentine Sikowski	WWII
Robert Lemke	K	<b>415 Milwaukee</b>	
<b>322 Babcock</b>		Henry Rutkowski	WWII
Douglas Kuhlka	K	<b>416 Greendale</b>	
<b>324 Osseo</b>		Frank Macek	K
Jack Curry	V	James Radtke	V
<b>325 Goodman</b>		Richard Wendt	V
James Ellison	V	Robert Birmingham	WWII
<b>331 Shorewood</b>		Phillip Passler	V
Earl Primley	V	Ralph Rehorst	WWII
<b>333 Sun Prairie</b>		Eugene Schneider	K
William Batterman	K	Kathleen Neuburg	V
Virgil Schroeder	K	Robert Green	V
<b>336 Onalaska</b>		Robert Jaeck	K
Richard Risberg	K	<b>417 French Island</b>	
Richard Hougom	K	Jerry Shepler	K
Gordon Summerfeld	K	<b>426 Milwaukee</b>	
Gerald Guentner	V	David Bonar	V
Clarence Stellner	V	<b>431 Three Lakes</b>	
<b>337 Pulaski</b>		Leonard Ellis	K
Ray Mroczynski	K	Michael Flegle	V
<b>347 Lomira</b>		James Sullivan	V
Donald Collien	V	Terry McCloskey	V
Floyd Young	K	Charles Traska	V
Franklin Serwe	K	<b>434 Oak Creek</b>	
Frank Nonn	V	John Chovanec	PG
<b>348 DeForest</b>		David Drake	K
John Conway	V	James Harvey	K
Warren Holsbo	V	<b>435 Wrightstown</b>	
<b>351 Montello</b>		John Oneill	WWII
Weldon Kempf	V	Richard Deck	V
<b>355 Grafton</b>		Dennis Bee	V
Lowell Liebenstein	V	<b>436 Superior</b>	
Melvin Eischen	WWII	Thomas Drootsan	K
George Hoffmann	K	Robert Fritsch	V
Richard Paulini	K	Harold Merkl	WWII
Robin Stibbe	V	<b>439 Melrose</b>	
Robert Lambros	K	Roger Olson	K, V
Anton Fatla	K	Joe Yourell	K
Allan Gauthier	GWOT	Winston Zeman	K

<b>440 Clinton</b>		Harry Crusan	WWII
<b>442 Wisconsin Rapids</b>		Wallace Johnson	V
Richard Blount	K	<b>448 Milwaukee</b>	
<b>448 Milwaukee</b>		Alice Young	K
George Kramer	WWII	<b>449 Brookfield</b>	
Robert Vlosich	K	Joseph Kopecky	K
<b>449 Brookfield</b>		Joe Kaufman	WWII
Arthur Jeske	WWII	George Kramer	WWII
Herbert Stark	WWII	Robert Vlosich	K
Jon Leider	PG	<b>452 Spirit</b>	
Karl Ihrig	WWII	Clarence Johnson	K
William Grass	V	<b>455 Milwaukee</b>	
Allen Zoellick	K	Radolph Matthews	V
David Herzer	K	<b>460 Belleville</b>	
<b>452 Spirit</b>		Vernon Duppler	WWII
Clarence Johnson	K	<b>467 Ontario</b>	
<b>455 Milwaukee</b>		Clarence Stout	WWII
Radolph Matthews	V	<b>469 Marathon</b>	
<b>460 Belleville</b>		Elroy Krueger	V
Vernon Duppler	WWII	<b>474 Milwaukee</b>	
<b>467 Ontario</b>		James Murphy	K
Clarence Stout	WWII	<b>476 Loomis</b>	
<b>469 Marathon</b>		Kenneth Rynish	K
Elroy Krueger	V	<b>479 Milwaukee</b>	
<b>474 Milwaukee</b>		Huey Glass	K
James Murphy	K	<b>480 Presque Isle</b>	
<b>476 Loomis</b>		Robert Schaefer	K
Kenneth Rynish	K	<b>483 Allenton</b>	
<b>479 Milwaukee</b>		Melvin Gullickson	V
Huey Glass	K	<b>485 Rudolph</b>	
<b>480 Presque Isle</b>		Richard Ketchum	V
Robert Schaefer	K	<b>491 Cazenovia</b>	
<b>483 Allenton</b>		Donald Klang	K
Melvin Gullickson	V	<b>492 Rothschild</b>	
<b>485 Rudolph</b>		William Stencil	V
Richard Ketchum	V	<b>494 Caledonia</b>	
<b>491 Cazenovia</b>		Mark Taube	V
Donald Klang	K	<b>499 Gordon</b>	
<b>492 Rothschild</b>		James Chandler	K
William Stencil	V	Harry Grant	WWII
<b>494 Caledonia</b>		<b>501 Madison</b>	
Mark Taube	V	Donald Najdowski	K
<b>499 Gordon</b>		John Fadness	V
James Chandler	K	Leland Lemens	K
Harry Grant	WWII	<b>506 Iron River</b>	
<b>501 Madison</b>		Terry Jacobson	V-PG
Donald Najdowski	K	<b>518 Green Bay</b>	
John Fadness	V	Douglas Santy	V
Leland Lemens	K	Bruce Heitzky	V
<b>506 Iron River</b>		<b>523 Abrams</b>	
Terry Jacobson	V-PG	James Young	V
<b>518 Green Bay</b>		Lyle Jahnke	V
Douglas Santy	V	<b>524 White Lake</b>	
Bruce Heitzky	V	Gordon Bristol	WWII
<b>523 Abrams</b>		John Brooks	K
James Young	V	Robert Hendrickson	V</





## MEMBERSHIP

**Becky Mueller**  
Department Chair  
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Congratulations to the Department of Wisconsin for meeting National's goal of being 85% in membership by the Legion's birthday – March 15. We barely did it – but we accomplished that goal by working together. Let's continue to work together for the next milestone and eventually being 100%. Unrealistic – maybe, but we won't know until we try!

Congratulations to all of those units, counties and districts that have achieved their goals. I know it was a struggle and seemed unobtainable, but you did it! Many more are still working to meet their goals and expectations – not only those set by National – but those set by themselves. You have been innovative and creative. You have thought outside the box and looked to each other for ideas and support. You have achieved great things!

Now is not the time to stop. Continue to reach out to your delinquent members. Invite spouses of your Veteran members to join. Introduce your daughters and granddaughters to the programs and projects of our organization. Continue to recruit all family members – for the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders. Let's make it truly a family affair. Have you given your currently serving military members a membership in the Legion family? Female Veterans can join both the Legion and the Auxiliary. Your sons can join the Legion while still serving on active duty. What about becoming a Legion Rider and being eligible to ride together on leave? Don't forget the SAL – we want to involve the entire family in this great organization. (The District & Department leaders and the entire Membership Team are willing to assist you!)

Reminder if you are intending to become a Paid Up For Life member (PUFL) – NOW is the time – complete the process prior to June 30, 2023, to join under the current membership dues amount. Dues will be increasing for the 2024 membership year, as

### MEMBERSHIP AWARDS: UNITS CELEBRATE OVER 150 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP!



**LEFT: Members of Mayville Unit 69 presented continuous membership awards and lap robes made by the Auxiliary to Alyce and Eugene Wurtz. Alyce is an 80-year member of the ALA (she joined as a young child) and Eugene has been a member of American Legion Post 69 for 70 years! Pictured (back row): Marilyn Finke, Unit Treasurer; Judy Pfalzgraf, Unit President; Carol Miller, Unit Secretary; and Ron Pfalzgraf, Post Judge Advocate; (front row): Alyce and Eugene Wurtz. Congratulations, Alyce and Eugene!**

**RIGHT: Ruth Breitung from Unit 224 in Alma, Wisconsin joined the American Legion Auxiliary in 1946 and was honored for 77 years of continuous membership! She celebrated her 99th birthday on November 1, 2022 and is the longest living member in the Alma unit. Ruth has been very active in all areas of the unit. Congratulations and thank you, Ruth, for all that you have done!**



approved at the 2022 National Convention. The reasons were discussed and debated. If you would like insight into this decision, please contact your district and department leadership. Many attended and participated in the process. That said – because of your efforts on the department level – we have not had to increase our department dues – just the national portion. The best way to hold the line on a Department of Wisconsin dues increase is by paying your dues in a timely manner and increasing the number of current members in our state. Membership dues pay for

our department level expenses and add support to our programs. If we can increase our total membership and continue to cut unnecessary expenses, we can maintain our current level of department dues and not cut our programs.

I know many of you are involved in processing your reports. We have a lot of good things to report. Every unit has something to report – send it in. Together our numbers add up to fantastic amounts of service and dedication. Be proud of what you have accomplished and the good you have achieved.

Many, many lives have been touched and changed for the better because of your work through our organization.

Thank you again for making a difference. Invite others to join in your programs and projects. Check on each other – just to say hello and touch base. Remember every one of us is part of the mission and vision of the American Legion family by virtue of our eligibility and membership. Thank you for making a positive difference to my life. God bless you all.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH (C&Y)

**Mary Petrie**  
Department Chairman  
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*'I think of a child's mind as a blank book. During the first years of his life, much will be written on the pages. The quality of that writing will affect his life profoundly.'*

~ Walt Disney

The C&Y purpose is to protect, care for, and support children and youth. The American Legion Auxiliary takes that statement to heart. Monetary and in-kind donations, volunteer hours, partnering opportunities, and prayers have filled chapters in that blank book, and have indeed profoundly

changed the lives of many children.

Hats off to our own Wisconsin Sons of the American Legion for creating A.L.F. Thank you for supporting this project. That cuddly little puppy in the arms of a child eases anxiety during serious illness and through a parent's deployment. As you know, A.L.F. stands for **American Legion Family**, but each puppy can be renamed by its recipient.

In 1952, Arkansas Department Commander, Dr. Garland D. Murphy, Jr., offered to gift The American Legion a large contribution if it could be used solely for children. On agreement, the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) was established, which provides grants to nonprofit organizations addressing physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of children across the country. Dr. Murphy provided deeds to fractional mineral rights on

nearly 10,000 acres of oil-rich land in Montana and North Dakota. In 1955, the first three grants, totaling \$22,500, were presented to three organizations. Millions of dollars have been awarded since, and the ALA has backed that as well.

Visit the Wisconsin website's Children & Youth program. Among other printouts, you'll find the American Legion Auxiliary *America the Beautiful* coloring book which can be donated to places that serve children. Schools, libraries, churches, food pantries, children's events, dentist and doctor offices, police and fire stations, and grocery stores are great places to check with. Remember to include your contact info. It's great PR, too!

April's "Purple Up!" originated in 1986 by Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger to celebrate our military children. They're serving, too, and

face unique challenges. The combined colors of the Armed Forces produce purple: Air Force blue, Army green, Navy blue, Marine red, and Coast Guard blue. Wear and share a purple ribbon!

Thank you to all who responded to a plea to send birthday cards to Delaney Krings, a terminally ill Pewaukee girl. Her family celebrated her 5th birthday and Christmas. Your quick response made a huge impact on her family before she passed away.

Those blank pages filled quickly, and as the year winds down, your reports add more pages, sharing your ALA story, dedication, and determination to make a tremendous difference in the lives of our children, not only in April, but year-round.

What you do impacts beyond expectations, and it all started by *Believing*. Thank You!



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

**Linda Kostka**  
 Department Chaplain  
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 715-209-8135

### EXPLORING RELIGIONS, PRAYERS AND CUSTOMS

The major faiths throughout the world are Christianity, Baha'i, Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Sikhism, Shinto, Taoism, and Zoroastrianism. And our society still has many examples of Greek mythology and astrology that people live their life by. This year as your Chaplain has made me aware of the religious experiences that others may follow. For me, I put my faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God the Father, but I remain respectful to others and their beliefs. Thank you for an amazing year!

#### Psalm 141:1-2

O Lord, I call to you: come quickly to me. Hear my voice when I call to you. May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

#### Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.

## REMINDER

### I need more input to President Coppock's prayer book.

Please send prayers, poems and hymns to me to add in this book to enhance her year as President. All family members to include Legionnaires, SAL and Riders can contribute. Thank you for your support on this project.

## GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

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

**POPPY UPDATES:** After what seems like a never-ending winter, flowers will be blooming soon which means National Poppy Day is right around the corner – May 26, 2023! But don't forget that poppies can be distributed all year long – Memorial Day, Flag Day, 4th of July, community celebrations, Veterans Day, etc. Some units have even been successful with mailing poppies to their members and local community leaders and simply asking for a donation in return.

**SUPPORT OUR VETERANS:** Units and posts submit 20% of their poppy profits to Department to support the VA hospitals in Wisconsin, Minneapolis and Iron Mountain; the three Wisconsin Veterans Homes; Dayton Care Center in Kenosha; and Camp American Legion. Poppy profits also fund scholarships, grants to homeless women Veterans, the Veterans Creative Arts Festival, and emergency assistance for Veterans and active-duty military personnel. Units and posts use the balance of poppy funds for the direct benefit of Veterans or service members where a medical or financial need is evident. Thank you to everyone who supports the Auxiliary's Poppy Program!

**PUFL MEMBERSHIP:** At the 2022 National Convention, a \$6 dues increase was approved, effective with the 2024 membership year. Anyone interested in becoming a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) member is encouraged to submit an application by June 30 to take advantage of the current rate chart. After July 1, PUFL fees will be based on the 2024 dues rates.

**DEPARTMENT CONVENTION:** The 2023 Department Convention is scheduled for July 20-23, 2023 at the Central Wisconsin Convention & Expo Center in Rothschild. The opening procession will start at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, July 21 and the convention will be called to order at 9:30 a.m. A recognition program will be held on Friday at 3 p.m. including a Tribute to Honored PDP Sue Vorwald and presentation of 2022-2023 district membership awards. Fundraising Chairman Lorrie Barber is coordinating a basket raffle, governing documents will be updated, and new officers will be elected and installed. Please visit the website for more convention details and we hope to see you in Rothschild in July!

**NATIONAL CONVENTION:** The 2023



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN  
**ALA IN THE KNOW (Important Info for Every Member)**  
**2023 REGISTRATION FORM**



**DEADLINE: AUGUST 1, 2023**  
 (Please submit one form per person)

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

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

#### Schedule for all conferences:

7:45 am – 8:15 am Registration/Morning Refreshments  
 8:15 am – 2:30 pm Informative presentation, lunch break, interactive program session, Q&A

**Reservation deadline for ALL sessions: August 1, 2023**

Please print clearly:

District #: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit City: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone:  home  cell: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

Select One:

	DATE	LOCATION
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, 09/9/2023	American Legion Post #360 417 East Main Street, Waunakee, WI 53597
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, 09/16/2023	Tigerton Community Center 221 Birch St, Tigerton, WI 54486 <b>Parking in Back / Use Back Door</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, 09/30/2023	Fletcher Pechacek American Legion #121 701 N Main St, River Falls, WI 54022

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (\$25/person): \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Mail check, payable to ALA-Wisconsin, by August 1 to:  
**ALA Wisconsin, P. O. Box 140, Portage, WI 53901-0140.**

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

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

National Convention will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina from August 25-31, 2023. Wisconsin PDC Dan Seehafer is the Leading Candidate for National Commander. Pending election results, he will be installed on Thursday, August 31. Registration and housing forms and other information will be posted on the department website as it becomes available.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION:** Do you want to learn more about the Auxiliary? ALA in the

Know Conferences are being held in September. Sign up today! The registration form is above.

**SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS:** Thank you to everyone who supports the American Legion Auxiliary annual sweepstakes. It is the only direct mail fundraiser conducted by Department and raises thousands of dollars so we can continue working the ALA mission. Winners are listed at <https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/sweepstakes-winners-list>.

## POPPY PROGRAM

**Patti Westpfahl**  
 Department Chairman  
 pjw1975@gmail.com  
 920-299-0943

National Poppy Day is May 26, 2023, so I am sure by now you are working hard on your poppy program. Here are a few things to keep in mind as you prepare for a successful poppy day.

- Committee has been selected – remember they are only the leaders and are not expected to do all of the work, it takes a team effort.
- Arrange for distributions of poppies – contact distribution locations to receive per-

mission to distribute on their properties.

- Contact City Hall for a proclamation.
- Arrange for Poppy Proclamation to be published in local papers.
- Create a display for the library or city hall.
- Write articles announcing distribution days.
- Get photos into the local papers.

Check out the Poppy Tool Kit resources that are available. Sign into the national member portal and go to <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/poppy/poppy-days>.

Share your poppy story. Join the Poppy Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAPoppy> and share how you have

worked the Poppy Program and how members participated.

Every unit is asked to submit poppy contact information for the unit and what the unit's plans are using this link: [https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/national\\_poppy\\_day\\_activities](https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/national_poppy_day_activities). Help our national organization by sending in your information so they have an idea of what is going on in the field leading up to National Poppy Day.

Go to <https://www.legion-aux.org/member/awards/poppy-program-awards> to apply for national program awards by 5:00 pm EST on June 1, 2023. The contests and awards are available to everyone, so complete the 2022-

2023 Poppy Award Cover Sheet completely and accurately to be considered for an award. The 2022-2023 Poppy Program Action Plan and poppy information and worksheets are available on the department website ([www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://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. **Annual reports are due by April 15, 2023.** 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.



## HONORING PDP SUE VORWALD (2008-2009)

Past Department President Susan “Sue” Vorwald will be the honored guest at the 2023 Department Convention at the Central Wisconsin Convention & Expo Center in Rothschild. Sue is a 32-year PUFL member of Unit 121, River Falls, and served as Department President from 2008-2009. Her eligibility for membership is through the WWII Army service of her late father Raymond and late brother Stephen, a Vietnam Army Veteran. Sue worked at Anderson Window Corporation in Bayport, Minnesota for 28 years.

Sue’s experience and leadership was gained through the many chairmanships and offices she held at the unit, district and department levels. At the unit level she has served as Chaplain, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, and President. Susan was 2nd Vice President and President for 10th District. She held many unit and district chairmanships including Poppy, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Historian, Junior Activities, Leadership, Americanism, Children and Youth, along with many more. Much of her leadership experience came

from an early start in the following programs: leadership program for Neighborhood Youth Program, Future Business Leaders of America, 4-H, and Home Education and Children.

Serving at the highest office for the Department of Wisconsin fulfilled a dream of her late mother Gloria. Gloria started Sue as a charter junior in the Auxiliary, where she was able to kindle her interest as a member in her very active unit. Sue continues to be the unit’s Fundraising Chairman and helps at Bingo. She volunteers as a driver for Center for Independent Living of Western Wisconsin and New Freedom Transportation.

Sue’s theme was “Oceans of Love to our Veterans” and her special project was “Support Military Families.” Her commitment as a volunteer and her love of country motivates her desire to serve our military families. Wisconsin won the National President’s Award for Excellence during her term as Department President. Sue will be honored along with the district membership team, during the recognition program on Friday, July 21 from 3–5 p.m. Please come join us!



Susan “Sue” Vorwald  
PDP 2008-2009

## PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

**Bonnie Jakubczyk**  
Department Chairman  
bon6862@yahoo.com

Has your unit offered to pay the Past Presidents Parley dues for your past presidents? Are your former leaders already enrolled for the 2022-23 year? If not, please honor them by encouraging their membership. Thank you to all the units who have done this. Your dues payments go toward the PPP Scholarship Program to fund three scholarships in the nursing and health care fields. A direct donation to the PPP Fund is also appreciated and used to support the scholarships.

A reminder to check out the Past Presidents Parley Mentor of the Year Award. Nominations for this award must be sent to PPP Chairman Bonnie Jakubczyk by May 15.

PPP members are encouraged to attend the annual PPP Business Meeting at department convention on Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 4 p.m.

## VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

**Mike Rohan**  
Department Chairman  
mdnrohan@gmail.com

It is springtime once again and we turn our attention to spring cleaning. Look at your cameras and phones for pictures of events and activities you have worked on over the last six months. Share those pictures and let the world see what you did for our Veterans in Wisconsin. Here are some ways you can report your activities:

First and foremost, fill out the VA&R Unit Annual Narrative Report for 2022-2023. It is due to Department Headquarters by April 15, 2023.

Please include pictures, stories, newspaper clippings, flyers, news articles, activity reports, or anything that helps share success stories and shows activities that serve our mission. The narrative reports do not need to be complicated. It is your message!

In filling out your annual reports, consider these points:

Did you try a new project or fundraiser benefiting the VA&R program?

Does your unit have a favorite tried-and-true project?

Did you partner with another unit or organization on a project? Did it work well? Will it be repeated?

Has a picture or two (please email in a JPEG format) been sent showing your activities?

Do you have a unique story about one of your Veterans? (Ask their permission)

What makes your unit stand out from others?

### PTSD MONTHLY UPDATE

As The American Legion kicks off its “**Be the One**” campaign to destigmatize asking for mental health support, provide peer-to-peer support and resources and educate everyone on how they can **Be the One**, be sure to check out the PTSD National Center for PTSD to learn more about services available. The National Center for PTSD is the world’s leading research and educational center of excellence on PTSD and traumatic stress. Sign up to receive the PTSD monthly update electronic newsletter by going to: [https://www.ptsd.va.gov/publications/monthly\\_update.asp](https://www.ptsd.va.gov/publications/monthly_update.asp).

The Changing Face of America’s Veteran Population – Be sure to check this out so you can be better informed and better prepared to serve our Veterans in the coming years. The story includes links with information to reports offering a plethora of data regarding the veteran landscape in the coming years.

Plan an event around a special holiday to help your unit get active:

April 9 - National Former POW Recognition Day

April 15 - Purple Up Day for Military Kids

May 4 - National Day of Prayer

May 12 - Military Spouse Appreciation Day

May 20 - Armed Forces Day

May 26 - National Poppy Day

May 29 - Memorial Day

Thank you for your continued service to your unit, your community, and especially to your Veterans.

## 2023 ALA DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

**American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin**  
**Thursday-Sunday, July 20-23, 2023**

**Official Call:** The 2023 American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention will be called into session at the Central Wisconsin Convention & Expo Center, 10101 Market St, Rothschild, WI 54474 at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, July 21, 2023.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the department convention is to elect officers for the 2023-2024 administrative year; elect delegates and alternates to the national convention; amend the department constitution, bylaws and standing rules as needed; receive reports of the department officers and chairmen; recognize outstanding unit achievements; and transact business as may be brought before the convention body.

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

**Registration:** All attendees to the 2023 Department Convention must submit a registration form and \$30 per person to The American Legion by July 15, 2023. Registrations after July 15 will be \$35.

**Voting:** All delegates must be registered and seated within their District on Saturday, July 22 by 9 a.m. for voting. Business will resume as soon as voting is completed.

**Housing Blocks:** Housing has been arranged at the Best Western Plus and Bantr hotels. Discounted room rates will be available until June 20, 2023 or when the room blocks are filled, whichever comes first. Additional hotels may be available after April 26, 2023.

### Best Western Plus

803 W Industrial Park Avenue  
Rothschild, WI 54474  
715-355-8900

\$105 plus tax for Standard King or Two Queen Rooms

\$120 plus tax for Large Suite with 1 King & Pull out Sofa Sleeper (only 3 available)

Group Block: American Legion (Cut Off: June 20, 2023)

### Bantr

805 Creske Avenue  
Rothschild, WI 54474  
715-241-6300

Studio: Thurs. \$109 plus tax, Friday-Saturday \$139 plus tax

Suite: Thurs. \$119 plus tax, Friday-Saturday \$149 plus tax

Lofts: Thurs. \$129 plus tax, Friday-Saturday \$159 plus tax

All rooms have 2 Queens and price is based on 4 people per room

Group Block: American Legion RB 2023 (Cut Off: June 20, 2023)

**Deceased Members:** Names of deceased members that are sent to Department Headquarters by April 28, 2023 on a Member Data Form will appear in the Joint Memorial Service Program.

**Installation:** Installation of 2023-2024 Department Officers and District Presidents will be on Saturday, July 22 upon conclusion of convention business.



## Maggie Geiger for Department President

Maggie Geiger is excited and honored to announce her candidacy for the office of President for the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin.

Maggie has proudly served in various capacities and chairmanships on the unit, county, and district level including Sergeant at Arms, Chaplain, 2nd and 1st Vice President, and President. Some special projects are co-founding Sweat4Vets; working with the VSO on "To Whom Honor is Due" Dinner honoring Veterans, in conjunction with Concordia University, and facilitating a WWII Veteran secure his Honorary College Degree.



Eligible for membership through her father, Herbert "Buck" Masters, a WWII Veteran, Maggie is a 18-year Paid Up for Life (PUFL) member, has attended leadership trainings with the American Legion Auxiliary, ALA Mission Training, and the American Legion College, served as co-chair and presented ALA in the Know conferences, served on the ALA Strategic Planning Team, Americanism Chair, ALABGS Committee, and has chaired Americanism, Poppy, Membership, Service to

Veterans, was co-chairman for the 2022 National ALA Convention, and also served as Department Historian.

Her passion is for our nation's heroes, promoting ALA programs and its mission. Serving God and Country with ALA members from Wisconsin is a privilege. Serving as chair for different department programs has allowed her to gain more appreciation and recognize the love, compassion and struggles our ALA members/units have, how hard unit members work to retain and gain members, while working the programs and mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. Members are not just volunteers, but a family working together to make the lives of our American heroes better one day at a time. Maggie believes ALA members need to continue to show each other kindness and work closely with our American Legion Family, mentoring and embracing new ideas from members, while reaching out to our youth and communities. Together we can continue to meet the needs of our Veterans, military and their families.

Maggie and her husband, Brian, of 47 years are members of Alliance Bible Church and lifetime members of Ozaukee County Historical Society. They are proud parents of son Patrick, daughter-in-law Jackie, daughter Katie, son-in-law Michael, grandsons Gabriel, Emre, Hoban, and granddaughter Theodora – all members of the American Legion Family!

It has been Maggie's honor and blessing to serve as Department Senior Vice President, and she humbly asks for your continued prayers and support as candidate for the office of President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin.

## Rebecca (Becky) Mueller for Dept. Senior Vice President

I am excited and humbled to announce my candidacy for the office of ALA Department of Wisconsin Senior Vice President. I have appreciated the opportunity to serve you for the past year as your Department Officer and Membership Chairman. It has been wonderful to talk to and work with so many of you.

I gain my eligibility from multiple sources: my husband Clarence's service in the Army during the Vietnam era, my deceased first husband Richard Young's service as a Marine in Vietnam, my deceased father's service in the Army. Our family members also belong to the American Legion Family and understand the importance of this membership opportunity.



Since 2007 I have continued to be a member of Krause-Kraft-Mueller Unit 106 in Seymour. I served as Unit Secretary and President and continue to serve on many committees and projects. Currently, I am the unit's VA&R Chairman. I have served as the Ninth District President. I serve on committees on the unit, county, district and department levels as the opportunity arises. Serving on the

Department Membership Team has been an enlightening experience. My plan is to continue to be of service to and with this organization in whatever capacity available.

I have learned so much as I have traveled the state and met so many of you. Experiencing the care and compassion that you exhibit to your Legion family and beyond has been such a blessing. It is a joy to celebrate all that we have done and to look forward to all our future endeavors together.

In addition to the Auxiliary, I am a member of New Life United Methodist Church, having been certified as a Lay Speaker and serving on many committees and occasionally leading the services.

For God and Country defines my calling and passion. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve this organization and, most importantly, you, as we navigate together through the changes and challenges that are before us. Our mission is before us and I feel I can bring fresh insights and ideas to the table as we move into our second century of service to our Veterans, our military, their families (us), and our communities. Thank you for your consideration and support. God bless you and the USA.

## Sue Hembrook for Department 1st Vice President

Sue Hembrook wishes to announce her candidacy for Department 1st Vice-President. Her journey in the Auxiliary began 20 years ago at the unit level. In addition to chairing many committees in her unit, she served as President of the unit for four years. She also was the 4th District President and President of the Milwaukee County Conference of Units. On the department level she has served as Education Chairman, Strategic Planning Group Co-Leader, Director of Hospital Volunteers, Representative at the Dayton Care Center, and Poppy Shop Supervisor. She was also appointed to positions at the national level: 2015-2016 National Legislative Committee, 2016-2017 National Education Central Division Chairman, 2018-2019 National Poppy Committee, 2019-2021 National Central Division Children & Youth Chairman, 2021-2022 National Central Division VA&R Chairman, and currently National Central Division Americanism Chairman.

Sue is eligible for membership through the service of her late father, Norton Kaiser, a WWII Army Veteran and that of her husband, Gene, a Vietnam era Air Force Veteran. She has four children and nine grandchildren, all of whom are members of the Legion Family. Her son Joe is



currently a member of the Air Force Reserve and son-in-law Jeremy is serving actively in the Navy. Her grandson Jonathan is eagerly awaiting his place in military life. At the age of 17, he is currently a member of the Navy program Sea Cadets, and Air Force JROTC at the high school he attends. His brother Jacob, 15, is also enrolled in the Air Force JROTC at the high school. Every branch of the military is covered by one or another family member, with the exception of the Coast Guard.

Sue and her husband of 49 years are members of St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church in Franklin, WI. She has been involved in that faith community with their school, parish council, and many other fundraising events sponsored by the church and school.

Her dedication to this organization and our Veterans has been steadfast. She supports the VA's wholeheartedly as they supported her family when her father contracted MS and he was admitted to a study being done at the time by the Milwaukee VA. She knows that her dad had a much better and longer life due to the care given to him and also the support given to the family. She will dedicate herself by doing her best to support this organization and our Veterans.

## Betty Stone for Department Chaplain

I would like to enter the running for Department Chaplain for the 2023-2024 year. I have been an American Legion Auxiliary member for the last 46 years. I have held the following offices in the ALA:

- Unit – President, Vice President, Treasurer, which includes Membership Chairman, and Badger Girls State Chairman.
- County – President.
- District – 2nd Vice President and VA&R Chairman, 1st Vice President and Membership Chairman, President five terms for two years each.
- Department – Scholarship Chairman, Chaplain, and on the Membership Committee.

Outside of ALA I have been in church work since



age 16; teaching Sunday School, Youth Groups, Bible Studies, and planning events. Currently, I am the facilitator for our prayer group that meets once a week. I am also in charge of the yearly Ladies Encounter at our church and involved in our Church Camp where I have taught youth, cooked in camp, and a financial supporter.

Our preamble states, "For God and Country we associate ourselves together..."

Our mission is to serve others, not self, through the many programs and activities

we support and participate in throughout the year. We not only serve Veterans but also the community. Love for God and Country is where my heart is. Thank you for considering my candidacy.

## Mary Petrie for Department Historian

Growing up in the Legion Family, thanks to her father Bill's service in the Navy, Mary never dreamed of the journey membership would offer. As a 67-year member, opportunities abounded, and friendships grew. In her words, "I have been gifted with much, feel it a privilege to have served, and am extremely honored by the faith entrusted in me."

Mary has Pitterle-Beaudoin Unit 189 and Jefferson County Council endorsements and awaits such from District at Spring Conference.

Having held various unit offices and chairmanships, she is currently President. Mary is the County Secretary and has served the Mighty 2nd as Secretary, President, Parliamentarian, and Historian, along with several chairmanships. She and her mother have the distinction of being the only two-generation family to serve as 2nd District President.

While District Historian, Mary was also the Unit Historian, earning department awards for both each year. Referring to it as hitting the trifecta, she handled unit, county, and district secretary at the same time.

Department chairmanships include PR, Children & Youth, and VA&R, receiving National awards for penning



stories of member dedication. She served on the Membership Team twice and was Wisconsin Strategic Planning Goal Champion for Membership.

Mary has been a church secretary for nearly 22 years. Married for 44 years, she and Tom (S.A.L.) have two children, Matthew (S.A.L.) and Rebecca (ALA).

As members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Mary taught Sunday School and created a newsletter as Superintendent, was the church newsletter editor for 15 years,

volunteered on the 125th Anniversary committee, is a former church musician, and is currently Ladies Aid secretary.

Coordinator of Watertown's American Red Cross Blood Bank for 16 years, and donating as many gallons, Mary is also a VFW member, former Voice of Democracy contest judge, was a 30-year city band member, hit the Guinness Book of World Records as a World's Largest Orchestra participant, an Elk's National Community Service Award recipient, proudly accompanied her dad on the Stars & Stripes Honor Flight, and enjoys crocheting (especially for the VAs), crafting, reading, and volunteering.

Following in her parents' footsteps, Mary's journey continues...



## Amy Luft for Department 2nd Vice President

I am excited to announce my candidacy for Department 2nd Vice President. I am a Paid-Up-For-Life member of the Rose-Harms Unit 355 in Grafton and have been endorsed for this position by the Ozaukee County Council and the Rose-Harms Unit 355.

My passion for the American Legion Auxiliary has provided many opportunities. As a 17-year member, I have served in many different officer positions including President for my unit and county. During my term as President of Unit 355, my unit received the Department Most Outstanding Unit Award. Currently, I serve as President of the 2nd District.

My department chairmanships have included: Americanism – winning the National Award for Best Americanism Program, Leadership – winning the Department Award for Excellence, National Security, Public Relations, and Membership team. I co-chaired the ALA In-the-Know and served on the Strategic Planning Committee. I was chosen by the national organization to serve as the National Convention Chairman for the 2022 National Convention in Milwaukee.



Education about our organization is important to me which is why I have attended National Mission Training and have completed courses of the ALA Academy. I am also a graduate of the Wisconsin Legion College.

I have learned much about our Veterans through my experience with the Honor Flight program which I have been a part of since 2009. I served as Vice President for Stars & Stripes Honor Flight for 10 years and continue to serve as an ambassador for the program. To date, I have participated on 48 honor flights.

I am also a member of the VFW Auxiliary Unit 5373 of Ozaukee County. I believe strongly in giving back to our community. I volunteer with Interfaith Caregivers and Meals On Wheels. I serve as a Village Trustee for the Village of Grafton and teach Sunday School at my church. I have a degree in Business Management and spent over 22 years in sales and marketing in the senior healthcare industry. Currently, I work in the nonprofit sector at a local food pantry. My husband, Todd, and I have two daughters and two grandsons who belong to the American Legion Family.

## Sue Turouski for Department 2nd Vice President

I am humbled to announce my candidacy for the Department of Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary 2nd Vice President. I have had the privilege of serving as your Department Historian and because of this, I feel the importance of moving forward to continue the mission of the officers with whom I have been serving.

I'm a member of the D-2 Legion Riders, and a PUFL member of both ALA Rose-Harms Unit 355 and VFW Post 9202. I'm privileged to come from an extensive line of Veterans. I joined the ALA in honor of my brother, Staff Sergeant Steven von Nida, USMC. Since joining the Auxiliary in 2009, I have held the offices of Unit President, 1st Vice, Secretary, Chaplain, Historian, Membership Chair, and Sergeant at Arms. I've held chairmanships on both the District and Department Level.

I initially joined to honor my brother's sacrifices, wanting to do something so his legacy could live on. And by the grace of God and what this organization stands for, I have been able to do just that. My husband



and I have helped in many ways with the Dry Hootch. I am privileged to sit on the board of the Hometown Heroes Foundation, which founded and operates Camp Hometown Heroes (a camp for the children of the fallen since 9/11). Without my association through the ALA, I never would have had that opportunity.

My goal is to help promote our organization through sustaining our membership and helping to educate our members that "anyone can do anything!" Together,

with the help of our mentors, we should be able to get back to the grassroots of the Auxiliary by promoting our 4 Pillars.

Not everything is for everyone ~ that is why we need ALL of us to accomplish our mission!

I truly believe that when we all listen to each other and respect that we all have different abilities, ideas, and opinions, then learn how to put that all together, we will be unstoppable again.

Let's lean on each other's strengths instead of pointing out each other's weaknesses!

## Bonnie Jakubczyk for National Executive Committee person

Bonnie Jakubczyk is a 43-year member of Oelschlaeger-Dallmann Unit 434 in Oak Creek. Her eligibility for the American Legion Auxiliary is through the Army service of her late father Raymond, the Air Force service of her husband Dan, and her son Dennis who is currently in the Air Force Reserves. Bonnie has held many offices at the unit, county, district, department, and national levels.

On the Department level, Bonnie is currently the Past Presidents Parley Chairman and the Hospital Representative for Zablocki VAMC. She has worked her way up to Department President and served on Constitution and Bylaws, Resolutions, ALA Badger Girls State, Membership, Chaplain, and Historian. She has attended the National Learning Department Leadership Conference, Department Leadership National Conference, Mission Training, along



with numerous state and national conventions. She has served as the Central Division VA&R Chairman, Central Division Girls Nation Chairman, is currently the National Poppy Vice Chairman, and the Department of Wisconsin National Executive Committee person (NEC).

Bonnie believes the position of National Executive Committee person is important to our department and our members, by expressing our mission, accomplishments, and goals. The NEC is the link to make sure the ALA keeps moving forward. She takes this position very seriously and believes we need to work responsibly so that we can continue for the next 100 years.

Bonnie is married with two children and two granddaughters, all are members of the American Legion Family. Bonnie has been endorsed by her unit, district, and county.

## LEGISLATIVE

**Diane Weggen**  
Department Chairman  
dsweggen@gmail.com

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Legislative program provides information and assistance for members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion (TAL). The easiest way to be informed and to **help pass legislation** supporting Veterans, service men and women and their families is to sign up for **Action Alerts** and legislative updates at the ALA ([amlegionauxwi.org](http://amlegionauxwi.org)) or TAL ([www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)) websites. If you have signed up, please let [dsweggen@gmail.com](mailto:dsweggen@gmail.com) know you are participating in Action Alerts.

Did you know thousands of military families experience "low food security" because of the way Defense Department and Agriculture Department programs are constructed, causing service members to be ineligible for either program? Contact your legislators to correct this.

The American Legion Auxiliary supports the 2023 priorities adopted by TAL: **Adequate Funding for**

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): programs and services.
- Housing and Urban Development: permanent supportive housing program for homeless Veterans (HUD-VASH).
- Labor: Veterans' Employment and Training Services (VETS).
- State Veterans Homes: Veterans' long-term care facilities.

### Healthcare

- Availability: Ensure modern, geographically distributed VA facilities and care communities.
- Quality: Monitor healthcare provided by the VA.
- Treatment for Women Veterans: Ensure adequate and qualified staff and settings.
- Post-Traumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury, Military Sexual Trauma: Improve Veterans' access to mental health and substance use services.
- Wounded Warrior: Provide health and rehabilitation support for returning wounded service members.
- Caregiver Support: Expand current caregiver benefits to Veterans of all eras.

### Disability

- VA Benefits Claims: Eliminate the backlog in processing of claims and appeals.
- Concurrent Receipt: Eliminate deduction of disabled Veterans' disability pay from their military retirement pensions. (Concurrent Receipt is a real sticking point with career Veterans. Veterans with some degree of disability are required to use their personal retirement money to pay for their disabilities rather than receiving disability pay from the government as others do).
- Medical Record Sharing: Expedite implementation of an information system for electronic sharing of medical records between the U.S. Departments of Defense and VA.

### Education and Employment

- Education Benefits: Ensure proper administration and Veterans' utilization of VA education benefits.
- Credentialing: Incentivize states to recognize education and skills gained during military service as sufficient for state occupational credentials.
- Federal Preference: Monitor federal agency application of Veterans' preference in hiring and contracting.

### Troops and Family Support

- Defense Funding: Provide for military operations, equipment, maintenance and facilities, servicemember pay and benefits, and retiree healthcare.
- Housing: Ensure that Basic Allowance for Housing keeps pace with housing costs.
- Transition Assistance: Ensure opportunities for servicemembers and families participating in pre-deployment, pre-separation, and transition assistance briefings and services.
- VA Benefits Claims: Eliminate the backlog in processing of claims/appeals for Veterans' benefits.
- Medical Record Sharing: Expedite implementation of information system for electronic sharing of medical records to reach Veterans no matter where they reside.

**Sweepstakes winners  
are posted at  
[amlegionauxwi.org](http://amlegionauxwi.org)  
under the "More" tab.**







**Linda Coppock**  
Department  
President

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I think I see Spring is finally here! It's a good indication by the number of District Spring Conferences that are scheduled. Units, some counties and some districts are also preparing for their election of officers. If you have been doing your job well, you should have mentored your replacement these past few years! A good leader can be a mentor just by their actions as a leader and not even realize they are mentoring anyone! I "Believe" we all mentor members, but we all have our own unique style. Everyone has a passion and a reason for belonging to this organization and I will continue to encourage members to share their beliefs and their passion.

As many of you are aware, at the 2022 National Convention held in Milwaukee, the national organization proposed a \$6.00 dues increase. After much discussion, the increase was passed. The base rate without any unit dues added will be \$34.00 per senior member. I have heard much grumbling about the increase and I also know firsthand that department staff bore the brunt of the complaints. They are just doing their jobs in keeping the unit members informed. They did not make this decision to increase the national dues. As Department Officers, members can call anyone of us to field your questions and concerns, we are the ones that attended the convention.

And no, the Department of Wisconsin is not raising its portion of dues at this time. My intent of choosing the Department of Wisconsin as my project this year was to avoid that very thing. By giving back to the ALA, to donate to the non-sustaining funds as well as the General Fund, I am hoping we can avoid a dues increase for many years to come. My passion is to give back to the organization that has given so much to me. A great part of the person I am today is because of the programs we have that support our Veterans, and most recently, the active military and their families. My true passion is to mentor our members, help them to be better leaders, and to help them understand why we promote the programs we do have.

That said, April is Children & Youth Month and has been expanded to include the Military Child. "Purple Up" people! April 15 is National "Purple Up" Day. I know we have units and counties that go above and beyond to celebrate and honor the military children.

May is Poppy Month – are you ready to promote your poppies? Are you Getting New & Old Members Excited? Remember to honor those who have served and are no longer with us. Believe in their sacrifice, they did...



**David Fuller**  
SAL Detachment  
Commander

## ★ SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER ★

Fellow Sons we are nearing the end of the third quarter of our current membership year. At the time of this article we need just 366 more membership renewals to reach our goal. This is testament to the hard work of the Sons on every level, but if you should need help for that last push to get to 100% or more, please reach out to your Detachment Officers for help. Let's get to 105% by June 1.

As spring approaches, we will be getting busy with our fundraising efforts and I wish you all a big success. I would like to remind you that our A.L.F. dog program relies on donations to keep it going. Our program is the only one like it in the country, although we have a number of other states asking how we started and maintain our program. Our program is fully supported by donations, and that is why we ask you to please consider the A.L.F. program for a donation.

Another concern of the Sons is that of LEADERSHIP, we need help at every level — Squadron, District and Detachment. You, yes You, may be the answer. Give it a try you may find that you like it and that you are capable of being so much more than you had ever imagined. District conferences will be starting soon, go to one and see how it's done. Get a group together from your Squadron and make a day of it.

As temperatures rise and we move closer to our spring months I hope you all have good health and all the happiness you can get. I hope to see all of you at the District conferences. Be proud, stay proud.

For God and Country.



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



**Julie Muhle**  
Department  
Commander

## ★ DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ★

Programs are the crown jewels of The American Legion. Each of our pillars has programs within them that strengthen the pillar. Let's take the easy pillar of Americanism. Americanism is the unfailing love of country, loyalty to its institutions and ideals, eagerness to defend it against all enemies, individual allegiance to the U.S. flag and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. Considering the above, is it any wonder the programs under Americanism consist of Operation Comfort Warriors, Legion Baseball (and Legion Softball), Scouting, Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy, Junior Shooting Sports, Boys State and Nation, Oratorical Scholarship Program, Flag Education, Scholarship programs and Citizenship.

In order to maintain these programs, we need to ensure funding for them. Our dues and donations help keep our programs going. Unfortunately, membership continues to decline. As it declines, so does the amount

of money funding our programs.

I am asking that as your post, unit, squadron or chapter raises money for donations, please keep in mind our programs. There is nothing wrong with raising money for other veteran or community causes. I applaud all the posts, units, squadrons and chapters that are able to make donations. As your post, unit, squadron or chapter determines where the donations are going, keep the programs of The American Legion in mind so we can continue to make a difference in the lives of our Veterans, their families and the community.

How can you donate to the programs? Go to [wilegion.org](http://wilegion.org) and in the upper right corner, there is a red box labeled Support Us. The next screen will give you a variety of programs to donate to. If you click the small arrow to the left of each program listed, it will give a brief description as well as the donation progress made towards that program. You can even choose to make your donation a recurring transaction! Checks are accepted as well. Simply make the check payable to Wisconsin American Legion and write in the memo section where you would like the donation to go to.

Thank you for everything you do!



**Randy Timms**  
State Secretary  
American Legion  
Riders Association

## ★★★ LEGION RIDERS ★★★

This is the Mission Statement for The American Legion Riders – "To participate in parades and other ceremonies that are in keeping with the aims and purposes of The American Legion. To promote motorcycle safety. To provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share the same interests. To use our association to promote and support the programs of The American Legion, the community and other motorcycle organizations."

Like most of the Family, the Legion Riders are in the midst of holding elections for State Officers. Our voting process will remain open until the 15th of April. As State Secretary, I receive the mailed ballots from those folks that either do not have email capabilities or for whatever reason elect to have a ballot mailed to them. Those ballots remain sealed and are only opened at the May meeting by a small committee. They are tallied with the electronically executed ballots and the results are read to the membership. This year we had only one office where multiple nominations were made, so the voting is pretty straight forward. I'll gladly reveal who wins that contest in our next issue of the *Legionnaire*.

As of our February meeting, we enjoyed the membership of 710 throughout Wisconsin. We have 335 Veteran members, 162 Life members, 23 Active Duty

members, 107 Auxiliary members and another 83 SAL members to round out our total. So if you or a friend owns a motorcycle and is part of the Legion Family, ask them to consider joining. They find a friend here!

As I have written before, this year our 3-day Tour will collect donations for Camp American Legion. Corey, Brad, Gary and I are working hard behind the scenes to develop a safe and exciting ride and one we can be proud of. But we're not the only ones! There are many people behind the scenes doing their part. One of the BIG items is the level of cooperation we've received from so many posts. I'm sorry that we could not arrange this year's tour to stop at every Post that offered. Don't fret, because next year will be here soon enough and I kept your offer on file!

We will be collecting donations this year at posts located in Juneau, Princeton, Mauston, Ontario, West Salem, Holmen, Eleva, River Falls, St. Croix Falls, Rice Lake, Spooner, Bruce, and Medford. 13 posts stepped up to help and we ALL appreciate their efforts. We plan to end at the State Convention on Wednesday, July 19. So come early for the party at Bulls Falls Harley, right down the street from the convention center. We'd love to see you there about 1600.

For more information about the Legion Riders, or to get more details about becoming a Rider, contact either: Ray "Godfather" Pasbrig, President, at [rpasbrig3@wi.rr.com](mailto:rpasbrig3@wi.rr.com) or at 262-853-4929, or Randy "Music Man" Timms, Secretary, at [rtimms@twc.com](mailto:rtimms@twc.com) or at 262-441-1692

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