



BADGER



LEGIIONNAIRE

& WISCONSIN VOL 101 #2 | APRIL 2024



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.

APPLETON TO HOST 105TH CONVENTION

105th Annual Department Convention
Hilton Paper Valley
 333 West College Avenue
 Appleton, WI 54911
 July 10-14, 2024

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 12, 2024 per the Department Constitution and Bylaws. It is advised however, to register prior to this date.

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

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

ITEM	NUMBER	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Registration Fee		\$30.00	
Registration Fee after July 6, 2024		\$35.00	
Saturday Evening PCC/Legion Family Event: Taco Bar- 7 PM, 1/2 Barrell of Beer, Soda, cash bar and Live Entertainment-Doors open at 6:30 PM		\$25.00/person	
Total Enclosed:			

Make checks payable to The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin
 Check #: _____

OR enter credit card information below

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

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

Join the Legion Family for the 105th Department Convention July 10-14, 2024, at the newly renovated Hilton Paper Valley, 333 West College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911. All Legion Family members are welcome and encouraged to attend. **THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!**

The week will kick off **Wednesday, July 10**. The Headquarters Team will begin setting up the weekend's events during the day. At 5 p.m. the Wisconsin American Legion Foundation meeting and the Membership Committee Meeting will take place.

The events will continue **Thursday, July 11** with the Department Standing Committee meetings, the Department Executive Committee meeting, and the Convention Leadership briefing.



Housing

Hilton Paper Valley

333 West College Avenue
 800-333-3333
 \$112 plus tax
 Block opens April 1.

Hampton Inn Appleton - Fox River Mall

350 Fox River Drive
 920-954-9211

Room Block: Wisconsin American Legion
 \$114 plus tax - free parking, WIFI, indoor pool & hot tub, and full hot breakfast with their famous homemade waffles.

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott

130 S Nicolet Road
 920-939-8181
 \$119 plus tax

La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham

3800 W College Avenue
 920-734-7777
 \$129 plus tax

Four Points by Sheraton Appleton

300 Mall Drive
 920-993-1200
 \$139 plus tax

Anthem being sung by Past Department Vice Commander Jeff Zwiers. You will hear from dynamic speakers, awards presentations, 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 13 will again begin with District Caucuses and then Legionnaires will vote for the 2024/2025 Leadership. After voting, join the Convention Session for more dynamic speakers, awards and program presentations and the announcement of 2024/2025 Leadership. 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 live 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, July 14 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.

Registration, housing, schedules, and updates are posted at <https://wi.legion.org/department-convention>.

SEE YOU IN APPLETON!



105TH
 DEPARTMENT
 CONVENTION
 July 10-14, 2024

Hilton Paper Valley
 Appleton, WI

Non Profit Org
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 Janesville, WI
 Permit 2930



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

“Badger Legionnaire” & “Wisconsin”

The Badger Legionnaire & Wisconsin are the official publications of the Wisconsin American Legion Family and are published six times annually, by the American Legion, Department of Wisconsin
 Post Master: Send address changes to Badger Legionnaire and Wisconsin, P.O. Box 388, Portage, WI 53901

“Badger Legionnaire”

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

Executive Editor
Sheri Hicks

2023-24 Department Officers
 Department Commander
Karl Stuvengen

Department Vice Commanders
Jim Johnson
Harry Bauer
Gail Minks
Linda Pfeiffer

Department Adjutant
Julie Muhle

Department Chaplain
Virgil Smith

Historian
Michelle Adams

Sergeant-At-Arms
John Berg
Aimee Korger

Service Officer - **James Fialkowski**
 NECman - **Robert Shappell**
 Alternate NECman - **Frank Kostka**
 Judge Advocate - **Nicholas Lange**

District Commanders
 1st – **Nathan Bond**
 2nd – **Charlie Young**
 3rd – **Jerry Hook**
 4th – **Steve Kohnke**
 5th – **Craig Ellis**
 6th – **Dave Steinert**
 7th – **Phil Green**
 8th – **Adam Klapperich**
 9th – **Debbie Thomas**
 10th – **Rita Rindahl**
 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
Maggie Geiger, 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

BADGER BOYS STATE 2024 IS LESS THAN 60 DAYS AWAY



As you read this article, the 2024 Badger Boys State session at UW-Eau Claire will be less than 60 days away from when many young men will arrive for the thrill of a lifetime. The BBS Director Bill Cosh, Sheri at Department Headquarters, BBS leadership team, the alumni association and the assistant directors have been busy since the close of the 2023 session. As we close the loop, minor additions, adjustments and tweaks are incorporated into the new schedule as the +/- 700 young juniors (citizens) hit the UWEC Campus in preparation for the June 9th session start. I can assure you that many of the aforementioned volunteers have put in hundreds of hours in dedication to making the 2024 session the best ever!

The Staff and Counselors pack a lot into that week in June. Throughout the week there is a heavy focus on education,

classroom sessions, and group discussions. On the night of the first general assembly, this will be the initial introduction as to how the City, County and State Government functions, including the process of citizens running for office. And staff do offer and encourage playing various sports, and believe me, they are at times competitive! Beyond any doubt, our BBS program is “A Life Changing Experience”; not only for our Citizens, but for our volunteer staff as well. In my opinion as a staff volunteer, there is no better way to spend that week in June

as you can see the transformation from the citizen on day one grow in so many ways through a variety of achievements, large and small, and making friends in the process that last a lifetime.

Although our staff has been determined for the 2024 session, I urge you to make an effort to visit our BBS session any time during the week. I will be happy to coordinate your visit on campus as you learn more about how you might fit in as a future volunteer. If this is something that is of interest to you, feel free

to reach out to me in advance of your visit to discuss your arrival.

You may recall that we do have a night that honors all Veterans, which is mid-week. All Citizens write appreciative letters which are handed out the night of the “Tribute to Veterans”. It is safe to say it is emotional for the citizens as well as for the Veterans.

Sincerely,
 PDVC Jerry Lauby
 Badger Boys State BOD President
 Department Americanism Chair



From left — Trent Benishek, Christopher Eckhardt, PDC Eirich, PDC Batty, Erik Olmen and Chirag Shah.

BBS STAFF MEET IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

While at the Washington Conference in February, PDC Bob Batty and PDC Greg Eirich had the pleasure of meeting up with some Badger Boys State alums who are on the staff of Badger Boys State whose careers have taken them to Washington, D.C. PDC Batty is the current Chair of the Badger Boys State Board of Directors and PDC Eirich is a member of the Badger Boys State Board of Directors.

PDC Batty stated that it was an honor to meet up with these fine individuals who have Wisconsin roots, but all serve in very important positions in our Nation’s Capital.

The group enjoyed good conversation and a nice luncheon at The Capitol Hill Club.



From left — Chirag Shah, Erik Olmen, PDC Eirich, PDC Batty, Trent Benishek and Christopher Eckhardt.

WINNER
WINNER

FOUR PILLARS SWEEPSTAKES
 GRAND PRIZE! \$10,000
 TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
 RETURN BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024

- \$10,000- Richard from La Crosse
- \$5,000- Jim from Wichita, KS
- \$2,500- Frank from Bloomer
- \$1,000- Donald from Mazomanie
- \$500- Paul from Manitowoc
- \$500- Jerry from Madison
- \$250- Robert from Phillips
- \$250- William from St. Paul, MN

Suicide Prevention is Everyone’s Responsibility

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

Four Critical Questions

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

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

Next Series Begins **•Get Informed** **•Get Involved** **•Save a Life**

May 7

Two Time Options:
 11:30 am or 6:00 pm U.S.

Central Time

Register Today at
www.RACESuicidePrevention.us

Be the lifeline.

Pain is real but so is HOPE!



WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREER ACADEMY

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FIRST RESPONDERS

The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin, along with their sponsors, holds the Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy. WALLECA provides firsthand experiences and insight into the operation of law enforcement agencies to 52 Wisconsin current junior and senior high school students, both male and female, are representing communities throughout Wisconsin. The program also affords highly motivated young people an opportunity to consider law enforcement as a potential career choice. The American Legion is particularly interested in educating and influencing young people about the role that law enforcement officers have in their communities. Active and retired members of the law enforcement community and the American Legion, present a program that instills an understanding and respect for law enforcement professionals and their techniques.

WALLECA offers physical fitness training coupled with classroom instruction and hands-on training. The 2024 cur-

riculum includes:

- Physical Fitness Training
- Confidence Team Building Rock Wall Climb and Other team activities
- Drug / OWI Enforcement
- Crime Scene Investigation
- Crash Investigation
- Firearms
- Defensive and Arrest Tactics (DAAT)
- Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC)
- Tactical Response
- PCS & Vehicle Contacts
- De-Escalation & Peer Support
- Ethics
- Human Trafficking
- Sex Offender Registry
- Probation/Parole

- Department of Natural Resources
- Cold Case - Forensic Technology

The 2024 session of WALLECA will be held July 29-August 2, 2024. Receipt of applications closed on March 31, 2024. Contact Sheri Hicks with questions, 608.745.1090, sheri@wilegion.org or visit the website, <https://wilegion.org/walleca>.

The Wisconsin American Legionnaires who participate annually in this program are: James Johnson, Department Vice Commander (Post 82 Port Washington); Julie Muhle, Department Adjutant (Post 15 Juneau); Charles Young, Second District Commander (Post 36 West Bend); Kaia Glenn, 2nd Vice Commander (Post 82 Port Washington); John Wolfe (Post 11 Green Bay); Michelle Adams, Department Historian (Post 375 Mukwonago); Todd Hanson, (Post 250 Friendship); Linda Koenen (Post 348 Edgerton); and Sheri Hicks Department Program Coordinator.

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



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

Fortunately, we had purchased the Legionnaire Emergency Assistance Plus® (EA+®) plan for our travels! We were in London, and after 2 hospitals and 39 days in a rehab facility, Michael was released to travel and EA+ coordinated our

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

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

- Julie & Michael
North Carolina



From Your American Legion Department

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

VSO REPRESENTATION AT THE CAPITOL



There was great Veterans Service Organization representation at the Capitol on March 6 at the Senate Hearing on AB102 concerning the Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses and property tax bill.

2024 Junior Shooting Sports Quick Facts

Thirty-nine (39) participants from five (5) clubs registered for The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin's 2024 Junior Shooting Sports Postal Match. Of these 39, 37 returned used targets.

Senior Division Scholarship Winners:

- 1st place — \$1,000 scholarship and trophy will be awarded to Eli Muckler with a score of 280.2.
- 2nd place — \$750 scholarship and trophy will be awarded to Logan Felton with a score of 259.2.
- 3rd place — \$250 scholarship and trophy will be awarded to Isabel Wieck with a score of 250.0.

Junior Division trophy winner:

Ingrid Carstens, with a total score of 191.1.

Beginner Division trophy winner:

Lyla Hau, with a total score of 203.9.

Team Trophy winner:

- Plymouth American Legion Air Rifle Club, with a combined score of their top four shooters totaling 979.8 points will receive a trophy for top honors.
- Richland Youth Shooting Sports had a 2nd place team score of 912.8 points.
- Washington County 4-H Shooting Sports came in 3rd with 865.0 points.

AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS

I am DuWayne Wieck, chairman of the Junior Shooting Sports Program. I am writing today to encourage kids to participate in the program.

Junior Shooting Sports falls under the Americanism Pillar of the Department of Wisconsin. Presently it doesn't have as many kids as some of the other programs. For that reason I'm asking you to approach your Post and ask them if they would like to sponsor a shooting sports club. It is a 3-position bulls-eye style shooting. Meaning, Prone, Standing, and Kneeling fired on a 10 meter range under the supervision of a range officer. Only "Sporter" category air rifles on the approved list from the National Standard 3-Position air rifle rule book are allowed. They are .177 cal. pellet guns.

The reason for the "Sporter" rifle is to have a minimal cost rifle, to have everyone on an even plane. This keeps the cost affordable, so it is about the skills developed for shooting, rather than how much you are willing to spend on expensive, high end equipment. It is an inexpensive way to have a fun sport that can be enjoyed by kids 8 to 18 years of age.

The reason for my article today is because of the decrease in kids involved in the program since COVID. We were not allowed to gather together or share equipment during that time, to try to decrease the spread of COVID. Also some of the shooting clubs were not allowed access to their facilities during that time and some did not return, post COVID. Restrictions have changed and it is time to return and enjoy the activities we did as a group.

If you are interested in starting a club, you need to find an American Legion Post that you can be affiliated with and hopefully support you monetarily, although there are other ways to obtain support. The other challenge is to find kids to participate. I am



also involved with 4-H shooting sports, so I draw kids from that pool of kids already interested. You can reach out to Hunter Safety groups, High School Trap Shooting leagues, or other shooting organizations in your area to promote the Legion Program.

Legion Junior Shooting Sports offers Scholarships to kids in the Senior category, 15-18 years of age. Each year the top 3 individuals in that age group are awarded scholarships as follows, 1st place \$1,000, 2nd place \$750, 3rd place \$250. First place Trophies are also awarded in the Beginner, Junior, Senior categories, as well as the first place team.

Please consider expanding your program or starting a new program. I am always available to offer you help on how to start a program, or ways to expand your existing shooting program. Visit wilegion.org, go to Programs, Junior Shooting Sports for more information and downloads. Or contact me, Dwieckbike@gmail.com or 920-627-1879.

MOUNT HOREB AL, VFW HOST WELCOME HOME TO 75 VIETNAM ERA VETERANS

On Wednesday, November 8 the Frank E. Malone Post 113, Mount Horeb American Legion, and Post 9511 Veterans of Foreign Wars hosted a long overdue and well-deserved Welcome Home and Recognition Dinner for over 75 Vietnam Era Veterans, with over 140 Veterans and loved ones in attendance.

The night started with a moment of silence for all POWs and MIAs and Deanne Haag, who passed away that morning. Deanne was supposed to be honored at the dinner along with other Vietnam Era Veterans. Don Hartman, the Commander of the VFW asked us to remember all those who served and could not be with us at the celebration.

Scott Klassy, the Commander of the Mount Horeb American Legion, welcomed everyone and told everyone the flow of events for the evening. Scott mentioned that we were there to honor everyone's Vietnam Era Service. After the meal Scott introduced our Guest Speaker, Past National Commander of the American Legion Denise Rohan.

Denise has served as an officer and in command positions at Post, County, District, Department and finally as the National Commander 2017 to 2018. Past National Commander (PNC) Denise was the first woman to lead a Veterans Service Organization at the National level. Denise continues to serve Veterans maybe as much or more today as when she was the National Commander. Denise currently serves as the Director of the Selective Service in Wisconsin, she continues to serve our Veteran community in so many ways.

PNC Denise Rohan is a Vietnam Era Veteran herself, so it was fitting to have someone who has



Past National Commander of the American Legion Denise Rohan addresses attendees after the meal.

served, and is continuing to serve so many, speak. PNC Denise thanked everyone in attendance and mentioned that she could not think of any better way to express her thoughts than to share the story that the anonymous author told about what it is to be a Veteran. She mentioned that it is so important that we recognize our Vietnam Veterans before we lose more of them.

As the program continued, Scott Klassy recognized all 75 Vietnam Era Veterans in attendance by introducing them by name, with their branch, dates of service and where they served.

Everyone in attendance had a great evening. The Mount Horeb American Legion Post 113 and the VFW Post 9511, as well as the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter IV wanted to say Welcome Home and Thank You for your service to every Vietnam Era Veteran.



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA EVENT DECORATES WISCONSIN VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY

The Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery at King in Waupaca was the local site for the Wreaths Across America Program. On December 16, wreaths were placed at the final resting place of more than 7,400 Veterans' graves at the Cemetery at King. The ceremony coincided with the laying of wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Wreaths Across America initiative at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery at King was made possible by District 8 Legion Riders Ray and Evelyn McSherry, along with American Legion Riders throughout the state. This was the 12th year that wreaths have been placed at King Cemetery.

Through this year's fundraising, the McSherrys and their Riders raised enough funds to lay a wreath on every Veteran's headstone. Each Veteran buried at King was remembered and honored.

On each wreath is an in memoriam card which reads "Today, I placed a wreath on the grave of an American hero..." Hundreds of Veterans from various groups, families and friends of the deceased Vets and patriotic individuals turned out at the King Cemetery in Waupaca for the wreath placement. A ceremony was held after the wreath laying which consisted of ceremonial wreaths honoring each branch of service, POW, and Gold Star Mothers.

The raising of funds for 2024 has already started. This is a yearlong project. Each wreath costs \$17. If anyone would like to donate to the project you can send a check made payable to ALRA, (American Legion Riders) to Ray McSherry, 1130 13th St S, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494.

Story by Ray and Evelyn McSherry, ALRA District 8 WAA Location Coordinators.

WISCONSIN DELLS MONUMENT HONORS VETERANS OF IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN WARS

On November 16, 2023, Commander Mark Cobb, officers and members of Harold B. Larkin Post 187, Wisconsin Dells unveiled a monument created to honor Veterans that served in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. Post 187 and the Auxiliary are proud to display this monument along with monuments of WWI, WWII, Korean and Vietnam wars on the Post property. The WWI, WWII and Korean monuments were set in place in 2003 to 2005. Legion Post 187 is located at 609 Wisconsin Ave, Wisconsin Dells.



Attached to the monument is a bronze plaque that recognizes women that served and reads "Over 3 million women have served since the founding of our Nation. From the story of 'Molly Pitcher', who served with the Continental Army during the American Revolution, to the women serving today. America's military women have long demonstrated courage, patriotism, and leadership. The American Legion Post 187, with the support of the greater Wisconsin Dells

community, is honored to establish this memorial recognizing women Veterans". Contributions to fund the project were solicited from local businesses and organizations associated with the Post. We are proud to have a place to engrave names of Post deceased members in good standing associated with the war or conflict in which they served.

POST 340 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations to Raymond Boeck on receiving his Honorary Life Membership at the monthly meeting on January 4, 2024. Raymond has 56 years of continuous membership in Post 340. The picture shows Post Commander Carlton Nehring presenting Raymond Boeck with his certificate.



DISTRICT 9 LEGION RIDERS' CAMP DONATION

American Legion Riders Wisconsin District 9 Members donated carsing for Camp American Legion.

Members Scott S., Chuck B., and Paul H. spent the day on a road trip, delivering tongue and groove carsing to Camp American Legion.

This material will be used for the remodeling of the Recreational Building at Camp.

Camp Director Jim and Office Manager Kristy assisted in unloading the carsing.

The 480 pieces of 1x8x6 WP4 pine tongue and groove carsing, worth \$3,500, were donated by Chuck G. of Saw Mill Associates.

Scott's side business, Vets Lumber, buys lumber from Chuck and sells to the public from his location in Crivitz. Scott donated the transportation to Camp.



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



TEXAS ROADHOUSE DONATES GIFT CARDS FOR VETERANS

The Texas Roadhouse of Rib Mountain presented \$2,645 worth of gift cards to the Wausau American Legion Post 10 on Monday, January 15, 2024. This was the eighth consecutive year that they have provided Post 10 with gift cards. These cards are made possible through a Texas Roadhouse program including their amazing staff and the generosity of their guests. With this gift card program the Post is able to expand its assistance to Veterans in need.

Throughout 2023, previous cards have enabled the Post to provide many service members and their families meals. The Post 10 Service Officer oversees the distribution of the cards to those in need. With uncertainty of travel and health concerns, these gift cards and the Texas Roadhouse "Meals to Go" program provide an opportunity for Veterans to call ahead for meals.

The Post also provides their Honor Guard members with gift cards after they have presided at more than one military funeral rite on the same day.

On behalf of the Post 10 members and all Veterans, we salute you!



Pictured from left to right front row: Lora Daniek and Paige Trevino, store marketers. Back row: Adam Daniek, managing partner; Dennis Borchardt, Post Adjutant; George Mosher, Post Finance Officer; and Tony Nardi, Post 10 Commander. Story and photo courtesy of Mike Heilmann, Post 10 Public Relations/Historian.

POST 115 AUXILIARY PRESENT QUILTS OF VALOR AT TOMAH VAMC HALL OF HEROES INDUCTION

By John Gessner, Post 100, Sparta

In the corridors of the Tomah Veterans Affairs Medical Center, building 400 as it connects with other buildings, is a Hall of Heroes. Memorialized here are photographs and citations of young men who have distinguished themselves above and beyond in America's armed conflicts. These heroes would tell you that they were just doing their jobs, but the citations say otherwise, telling stories of extreme heroism and valor.

On Tuesday, December 5, Specialist 5th Class Donald Masterson and Airman 1st Class Duane Senogles were the two most recent inductees into the Hall of Heroes. Both were present at a standing room only ceremony in the Medical Center's Veterans Hall. Several hundred family members, friends, and Veterans were in attendance to share in their honor.

As a special honor, both men were presented with handmade Quilts of Valor from the Elroy American Legion Post 115 Auxiliary. The Elroy organization, represented by Mary Fawcett, has presented over 75 quilts, designed to be used and not placed in a closet. Family members wrapped the quilts around the shoulders of the awardees symbolizing the warmth and protection of a grateful nation.

Specialist Masterson's, now 75 years old, unit was under heavy fire, when a fellow infantryman was struck in the head and fell into a ditch. Ignoring his own safety, Specialist Masterson ran through a barrage of enemy fire to render aid to the downed man. He quickly patched him up and under the same bullet-ridden air, dragged him to a safe location. For his actions, he was awarded the first of



Duane Senogles and Donald Masterson receive Quilts of Valor from the Elroy Post at their induction into the Tomah VA Hall of Honor.

his two Bronze Star medals, this one for valor.

The other Hall of Heroes inductee was the first of a kind, for outstanding volunteer service. Airman 1st Class Duane Senogles enlisted in the Air Force from 1959 to 1965. Eventually, his volunteer activities brought him to the Tomah VA Medical Center, where he and his wife worked on the Roads and Grounds crew. His service at the Medical Center allowed him to do his most important work, interacting with the Veterans and patients at the hospital.



PROJECT BRAVO

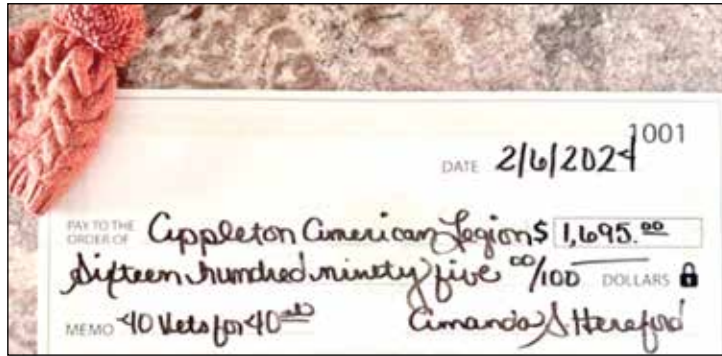


March 20, 2024 Van Ells Schanen Post 82 Auxiliary President, Diane Burkhalter and Van Ells-Schanen American Legion Post 82, Membership Director, Jim Schmidt attended the Green Bay Packers Foundation Luncheon, where the Foundation honored grant recipients, to receive a generous donation of \$6,000 for the Post's Project Bravo charity – service dogs for Veterans.

POST 412 TAILGATE 2023



The Melvin Wester Belgium Memorial Post 412 donated \$5,000 to five Organizations during halftime of the Green Bay Packers game at its annual Packers Tailgate Party on Nov. 5, 2023. Holding their \$1,000 checks behind Post Commander Thomas Trinh (left) and Post Finance Officer Bill May (right) were Don Toomey of USO of Wisconsin, Wade Roberts of Fischer House of Wisconsin, Maggie Robertson of Heavens Gait Ranch, Patricia Clason of the Starfish Foundation and Healing Warrior Hearts and Psychologist Dr. Graham Knowlton of the Clement Zablocki VA Medical Centers Suicide Prevention Center.



POST 38 NETS 40TH BIRTHDAY DONATION: LUNCHES FOR 40 VETS

By Catherine Kutzleb
Director Communications
Appleton American Legion Post 38

In the early part of February 2024, Appleton American Legion Post 38 was the recipient of a charitable donation to be used to feed 40 Veterans in need of such support.

Amanda Hereford, general manager, and partner at The Stoneyard Greenville (located at N1739 Lily of the Valley Dr, Suite 11, Greenville, WI 54942) wanted to do something different and big for her birthday this year, but it had to involve giving to Veterans in need.

According to Ms. Hereford, "I had recently had a birthday and I asked people in my community to make a donation for my 40th birthday instead of [sic] gift. I wanted to provide lunches for 40 Veterans for my 40th birthday, so I came up with a fundraiser. I ended up raising \$1,695!" Those of us at Post 38 cannot think of a more amazing way to celebrate one's birthday!

During one of our recent communications, I asked Ms. Hereford who served as her motivation and inspiration for such an amazing idea. According to Amanda, it was "my uncle Neal Borchert," currently serving as Commander, American Legion Post 41, Kaukauna, WI. Amanda also expressed it is her hope this will serve as a motivator for other local businesses to do such fundraising events to help Veterans who may need the help.

When Post 38 was notified by Ms. Hereford of such a generous and big-hearted gesture we were in awe. It is not often someone from the business community contacts our organization to donate meals for Veterans who may be experiencing food insecurity. The Appleton American Legion Post 38 family is honored to accept such a contribution and cannot express enough of our gratitude to Ms. Hereford for her gift of feeding 40 Veterans. Currently, leadership is developing a plan to best execute Ms. Hereford's wishes.

Photos provided by Amanda Hereford.

POST 250 HOSTS QPR TRAINING SESSION

American Legion Post 250 in Adams had training in Question, Persuade, and Refer at the last meeting. This training teaches how to handle someone who is in crisis and thinking of suicide. The course was instructed by Shelia Michels, Health & Well-Being Educator with UW Extension Adams Office and Katie Czys LPC, CSAC, MAC.



POST 279 BADGER HONOR FLIGHT DONATION

Badger Honor Flight received a donation from Marshall Post 279. Pictured from left: Deb Relitz, Scott Relitz and Jane Cree.



Legislators and local advocates gather before the State Assembly vote on 2023 SB 223. From left to right: Sen. Mark Spreitzer, Rep. Ellen Schutt, Bill Fitters, Kurt Stuvengen, Rep. Jenna Jacobson, Rep. Clinton Anderson.

NEAL MEMORIAL HWY HONORS ORFORDVILLE VET

Thanks to bipartisan support, Benjamin H. Neal Memorial Highway Bill will make it to the Governor's desk this session.

Corporal Benjamin Neal grew up in Orfordville, WI with a long family history throughout the Orfordville and Footville communities. He joined the U.S. Army after graduating from Parkview High School in Orfordville in 2009. While serving his second deployment, he was killed in action in Afghanistan's Kandahar Province on April 25, 2012.

American Legion Post 209 has carried his namesake for many years since his passing. And we are extremely pleased to share that after multiple failed attempts for the bill to pass through previous sessions, on February 20, 2024, the Wisconsin State Assembly passed a bill authored by a bipartisan coalition of local legislators to designate Highway 11 between Orfordville and Footville as the Corporal Benjamin H. Neal Memorial Highway.

2023 Senate Bill 223 was previously passed by the State Senate in November 2023, and will now be sent to Governor Tony Evers for his signature.

Sen. Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) said, "I am deeply grateful to the bipartisan coalition of legislators and advocates who worked together on this important bill. I would particularly like to thank Post Commander Kurt Stuvengen, the members of the Wells-Davis-Young-Neal American Legion Post 209 in Orfordville, Bill Fitters and the American Legion Department of Wisconsin for their longtime and dedicated advocacy. Corporal Neal was an



Corporal Benjamin H. Neal

extraordinary and beloved member of the Orfordville community, and I look forward to Governor Evers signing this bill into law to ensure that Corporal Neal's story and sacrifice will never be forgotten."

Rep. Ellen Schutt (R-Clinton) called Corporal Neal "a true American hero, giving up his life to serve his country. I am grateful that Highway 11 between Footville and Orfordville will display his name to honor his service and sacrifice."

Renaming a section of Highway 11 after Corporal Benjamin Neal is long overdue, according to Rep. Clinton Anderson (D-Beloit). "Corporal Neal paid the ultimate sacrifice defending our country. His military honors include the Purple Heart, NATO Medal, the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National

Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Stars, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Service Ribbon. I sincerely appreciate everyone who worked hard to get this bill through the legislature."

Rep. Jenna Jacobson (D-Oregon) said, "I am grateful that we are honoring Corporal Neal's heroism with this memorial. Although we can never fully show our gratitude for those that dedicate their lives for our country, this tribute is one step towards demonstrating our utmost appreciation for the Neal family and those in service from across the state."

Kurt Stuvengen, Post Commander of American Legion Post 209, said it has been a long emotional road to get this accomplished.

"I watched Ben grow from a young boy to the warrior and hero he became," Stuvengen said. "He is highly deserving to be remembered in this way by his fellow Wisconsinites. Regardless of how you feel about the military or their missions around the globe, 'Remember the warrior if not the war.'"

For District 1 Legion Riders, it was fitting to get behind the renaming effort.

"The American Legion Riders of District 1 from Post 209 wanted to ensure that no one ever forgets Corporal Benjamin H. Neal's sacrifice for our country," said Bill Fitters, Officer of the American Legion Riders of District 1. "For the Riders, seeing Ben's name as we are heading out or returning reminds us of the importance of our mission."



WAUPACA COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITION GIFT

The Tavern League of Waupaca County and WCSPC are collaborating on an initiative to provide drink coasters to local taverns, bars, and restaurants in Waupaca County. These coasters



Bob Bohr of Clintonville, a member of the Waupaca County Suicide Prevention Coalition, is accepting a check for \$500 from Doug Korth, Director of the Tavern League of Waupaca County.

will be carrying the Tavern League's Safe Ride campaign information along with mental health and suicide prevention awareness messages to help eliminate suicide in our local communities. Last year, Waupaca County had ten deaths by suicide.

Bob is a member of American Legion Post 63 in Clintonville and is active in the American Legion program "Be the One." Their mission is to prevent suicide

within the military and veteran ranks; veteran suicides average 22 a day.

Additional matching funds for this project will be available from the State Tavern League of Wisconsin. WCSPC will match the Tavern League's donation with funds donated to the Coalition from the Paulette Gerner Memorial. Paulette was a longtime supporter of the Coalition.

For further information, please contact the Tavern League of Waupaca County or the Waupaca County Suicide Prevention Coalition. If you or someone you know is struggling emotionally or having a hard time, you can be the difference in getting them the help they need - Dial 988.

There is help. There is hope.

POST 117 LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR



The Shawano American Legion Post 117 Commander Joe Schwobe presented Dennis Bohm the 2023 Legionnaire of the Year. Dennis was also recognized for the 2023 WI - County Veteran Service Officer Military Advocate of the Year Award. Some of his volunteer highlights include: 19 yrs and 225k Miles transporting Veterans and no accidents, over 13k volunteer hours. Dennis is also a lifetime member of American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and the AMVETS.

POST 71 HONOR GUARD GIVES SILENT SALUTE

Members of Pewaukee Post 71 Honor Guard attend a Silent Salute at the Crossroads Care Unit in Pewaukee for a Vietnam Veteran that is in hospice care.





POST 161 70-YEAR AWARD

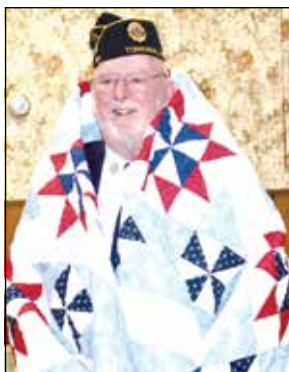


Arlin C. Barden, member of King Post 161, who was the former Commandant of the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, received a certificate recognizing his 70 years of membership.

RHINELANDER QUILTS OF VALOR



Robert Buschmann received a Quilt of Valor at Rhinelander VFW Post 3143. Robert is a member of Tomahawk American Legion Post 93. VFW member Mike Perry in the middle and American Legion and VFW member Walter Yunk also received quilts. Teresa and Annette made and presented the quilts.



Whole group left to right – Auxiliary President Maggie Geiger, Commander Karl Stuvengen, 3rd runner up Zoa Winey, 2nd runner up Eleanor Rhodes, 1st runner up Jade Wood, winner Joshua Rush, SAL Detachment Commander Allen Watry, Alice in Dairyland Ashley Hagenow, Department Oratorical Chair Robert Stone.

87TH DEPARTMENT ORATORICAL CONTEST HELD

The 87th annual Department of Wisconsin Oratorical Contest was held on Saturday, March 23 at Ripon College. The Regional contest was held in the morning and consisted of students representing seven of the Wisconsin American Legion Districts. The top two contestants from each of the two Regional contests competed in the Finals contest that afternoon.

Wisconsin's own Alice in Dairyland, Ashley Hagenow, was our special guest speaker. She spoke while the tabulators were preparing the results and everyone was eagerly waiting to see who the winner would be. Ashley was a contestant in the 2017 Department Oratorical Contest.

Department Commander Karl Stuvengen, Department President Maggie Geiger, SAL Detachment Commander Allen Watry were all in attendance to assist with the awards presentation.

Joshua Rush representing Mukwonago Post 375 from the 1st District was the winner and will represent Wisconsin in the National Contest that is scheduled on May 17 – 19, 2024 at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan. He will compete for a chance to win a \$25,000 scholarship.

Rounding out the top 4 contestants are:

- Runner-up – Jade Wood representing Post 38 Appleton from the 9th District.
- 2nd Runner-up – Eleanor Rhodes representing Post 347 Lomira from the 2nd District.
- 3rd Runner-up – Zoa Winey representing Post 17 Arcadia from the 10th District.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make this contest a success!



Oratorical Finals contestants: Zoa Winey, Eleanor Rhodes, Jade Wood and Joshua Rush.



Department Oratorical Chair Robert Stone, First District Commander Nathan Bond, First District Adjutant Lisa Fauster, winner Joshua Rush and Commander Karl Stuvengen.



SAL Detachment Commander Allen Watry, Auxiliary President Maggie Geiger, winner Joshua Rush, Alice in Dairyland Ashley Hagenow, Commander Karl Stuvengen and Department Oratorical Chair Robert Stone.

POST 209'S 70-YEAR MEMBER



Seventy-year American Legion member, Claude Klunde, received his membership award on March 16 at the 104th Anniversary celebration of the chartering of Wells-Davis-Young-Neal Post 209. Pictured with Claude is Post 209 Commander Kurt Stuvengen and Department Commander Karl Stuvengen.

OCONOMOWOC FOOD PANTRY



Edwin L. Jones American Legion Post 91 donated \$1,500 to the Oconomowoc Food Pantry. Left to right, Dave Corrie 1st vice, Jerry Wendt Commander, Gary Feldschneider of the Food Pantry, Dale Saeger Adjutant.

POST 539 HONOR GUARD



Post 539 Color Guard—Wendy, Glenda and Cory — at a De Pere girls basketball game.

POST 539: BE MY VALENTINE



Post 539 received valentines from 4th and 5th grade children.

FIRST RESPONDERS EVENT



The First Responders Resilience Event was on February 29, 2024 at the War Memorial Center in Milwaukee, WI. The welcoming introduction was presented by Dan Buttery, CEO, Milwaukee County War Memorial Center. The Keynote speech, Release and Restore, was presented by former Wisconsin Police Chief Dave Funkhouser. Attendees then participated in two breakout sessions: Self-Care: Retreat, Reflect, Replenish, Restore with Chaplain Robert Allen and Finding Your Purpose: Coping with the New Normal with Chaplain Greg Young. A reflection and wrap up ended the conference with a presentation by Wauwatosa Police Chief James MacGills. Throughout the conference, resource tables and networking were available. Manning the American Legion table were: Dept. Vice Commander Jim Johnson, District Commander Charlie Young, Membership Chair Joe Leone, and Dept. Historian Michelle Adams.



POST 79'S CENTURY MARK



Ross-Wilcox Post 79 of Burlington celebrating Robert Hulse's 100th birthday March 22, 2024. On the left is Finance Officer Jim Schmitz on the right is Adjutant Jeff Harm. Robert is also a 76-year Legion member and will be our Memorial Day Parade Marshal this year.

POST 19 HARTFORD AWARDS



ABOVE: Courtney-Carr-Milner Post 19 Hartford on March 7 presented Legionnaire of the Year to Ronald J. Schnorenberg (right). BELOW: On March 11 at the Hartford Fire & Rescue, Post 19 Commander Allen Schoessow (second from right) presented awards to (from left) Elaine E. Daly, E.M.T. of the Year; Officer Eric Strunsee, the Edward J. Ormsby Law & Order Award; and Andrew Brooks, the Outstanding Firefighter Award.

POST 1'S 'RISING STAR'



Post 1 Germantown's Commander Bonnell, was featured in a local magazine, Germantown Richfield Neighbors Magazine. In addition, Commander Bonnell was presented with the Germantown Chamber of Commerce Rising Star award for 2023.





POST 360 QUILTS OF VALOR



February 8, 2024 at William Lansing American Legion Post 360, Waunakee, five members received Quilts of Valor. The quilts were presented by the Quilting of Crossroads Church in Waunakee. From the left: Ted and Shirley Kubiak, Hank Dorn, Mary Scullion and Dave Barman.

NORTHWOODS HONOR GUARD



The Northwoods Honor Guard presents the Canadian and U.S. flags at the Eagle River World Championship Snowmobile race. American Legion Post 7 Commander Bob Smith leads the group of Legion post members and VFW Post 3143 members. Members are from right to left Jerrod Olsen, Tony Newman, Tony Schoone, VFW member Dan Keck, VFW member Tony Lehman, and Legion member Casey Crump. Not shown is Jake Kreisel who sang the National Anthem. *Photo courtesy of Ed Bauer.*

DISTRICT 11 RIDERS IN HARSHAW



The District 11 Legion Riders presenting the colors at the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the National cemetery in Harshaw. *Photo courtesy of Ed Bauer.*

POST 336 FHF FUNDRAISER



Post 336 in Onalaska had a fundraiser for the Freedom Honor Flight. We presented a check to Kevin Kuchar, Director of FHF in the La Crosse area. From left to right are: Paul Roraff (membership chair), Jim Binash (Post Commander), Keven Kuchar (director FHF), Lynn Herrmann (she made quilts of each branch of service) and Kent Stephen (organized the sale).

POST 340 QUILTS OF VALOR



Four Post 340 Berlin Veterans received Quilts of Valor to thank them for their sacrifice and service to our country. Each Veteran was introduced with a summary of his service and presented with a red, white, and blue quilt and a certificate of appreciation. Veterans recognized included: (L to R) Richard Lashbrook, Brian Zamzow, Mark Moore and Dennis Lokker.



James Bond
WDVA
Secretary

★★★★ WDVA SECRETARY ★★★★★

Greetings Legionnaires! It is my pleasure to congratulate you and your fellow Legionnaires on 105 years of the American Legion this past March. The Legion has been a beacon of support, community, and camaraderie for generations of Veterans and their families since its founding in 1919. I am grateful for all you have done and continue to do for our shared Wisconsin Veteran community.

As you may know, one of my main priorities as Secretary is to strengthen the relationships that WDVA has with our partners like the American Legion. Together, we are stronger. And we need to be strong to help protect vulnerable Veterans from being preyed upon. There have always been those who would take advantage of vulnerable Veterans. Unfortunately, it has gotten worse since President Biden signed the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act into law on Aug. 10, 2022.

According to AARP, scams targeting Veterans have increased—in 2022 alone, Veterans, service members, and their families lost \$292 million to fraud. Unfortunately, not all Veterans realize they need to safeguard their personal information from questionable third-party groups they do not know.

This March, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs redoubled our efforts to work with partners to raise awareness of scams and fraud targeting Veterans and their families in Wisconsin. In the coming months, we will be doing outreach and offering educational opportunities to those who are fighting alongside us.

LEGION BASEBALL DONATION



Robert Polaske, member of Post 263 for 70 years, leaves New London Clipper Baseball \$20,205 in his will. From left: Clipper coach Jim Thorpe, Post 263 Commander Ron Gagnow, Board President Joe Morrison.

EAGLE SCOUT GOOD CITIZENSHIP CITATION



Van Ells-Schanen Port Washington American Legion Post 82's First Vice Commander, Nick Blank, presented the Good Citizenship Citation to Eagle Scout Wyatt Behrndt of Troop #855. Wyatt's Eagle Scout project is a memorial erected on the Post's exterior showcasing each branch of the armed forces and a large American Flag.

We want every Veteran to know that they should never provide personal information to anyone other than an accredited VA representative, such as a trained Veteran service organization representative, local county or tribal Veteran service offices, or an official governmental agency. We want every Veteran to know that Federal law bans individuals and companies from assisting Veterans in preparing their claims for disability benefits without accreditation from the VA Office of General Counsel.

And we want Veterans to know there is help. Many Veterans service organizations, such as the American Legion, have representatives who have been trained by the VA in claims preparation and offer the service for free. WDVA also offers free claims assistance, and we have a new phone number you can use to inquire about claims or to provide help starting the claims process. Please call 833-4-WIS-CLM (833-494-7265) or 414-977-5583. You can also reach them by email at claims@dva.wi.gov.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is also an excellent repository of information about potential scams and fraud targeting Veterans and families. You can access it by visiting VA.gov.

I know that Legionnaires will help spread awareness to prevent fellow Veterans in Wisconsin from becoming victims of scams or fraud. If you have questions about identifying and avoiding scammers, fake telemarketers, how to recover from identity theft, and more, please visit DATCP's website at ConsumerProtection.wi.gov

Thank you, and I am grateful for all you do for Veterans in Wisconsin!

POST 10 HOSTS FOUR CHAPLAINS SUNDAY



On January 23, 2024, the mayor of Wausau declared the first Sunday in February as Four Chaplains Sunday in the city of Wausau. From left to right, Mayor of Wausau Katie Rossenberg, Post 10 Chaplain Don Hildebrandt, 1st Vice Commander Tyler Verhassett, 2nd Vice Commander Steve Sleeter, Finance Officer George Mosher, Adjutant Dennis Borchardt. American Legion Post 10 is forever grateful and thankful for this decoration honoring the military chaplains and Veteran service organizations in the city.

2024 CHAPLAINS RETREAT SLATED FOR MAY 24-26

The 2024 Chaplains Retreat is scheduled to be held at Camp American Legion on May 24-26. Legion Chaplains from Posts, Auxiliaries, Sons, and Riders are invited. The retreat is your time to unwind in the beautiful Wisconsin outdoors and to meet with and share experiences with other American Legion Chaplains.

The retreat includes free lodging and food.

We will take a freewill offering on Sunday to be presented to Camp American Legion to defray costs. Bedding is provided. You should bring your own toiletries and towels.

If you are interested in attending, you will need to submit an application to Camp American Legion. Please contact Chaplain John Gessner at 815-713-7229 or jaggessner801@gmail.com for an application.



Virgil Smith
Department
Chaplain

★★ DEPARTMENT ★★ CHAPLAIN

FAITH VS HOPE PART 1

What is faith? We have no clearer explanation of the meaning of faith than what we read in scripture. We read in **Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)** **“Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”** There are two words that we need to consider in this text: they are **sure** and **certain**. Faith is about being sure and certain about something.

Wow, what does that really mean to you and I, to be sure and certain of something? This question brings up a very deep concern in our heart as we ask the questions when can we be sure and certain that God will act? Or when can we know for sure He is going to do what we ask? The good news is that the author of Hebrews answers these questions in Hebrews 11:2 when he writes that the ancients were commended for a steadfast faith in God.

As we read further into Hebrews chapter 11 the author begins to tell us some stories and experiences concerning some prominent characters in scripture, such as Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, David, and Samuel. He starts with creation and goes through the parting of the Red Sea, through the exploits of David and unto Samuel. The writer tells us that each of these men lived by faith. If you have never read Hebrews 11, I encourage you to do so. It will be a blessing to your spirit, as you see what God has done through the faith of these men. Now, let us look at what the scriptures teach us about faith: your faith is in the promise. One thing these men had in common is that each of them were sure and certain that the promise they had received from God would come true. **Hebrews 11:11 (NIV)** **“By faith Abraham, even though he was past age – and Sarah herself was barren – was enabled to become a father because he considered Him faithful who had made the promise.”** *Where there is no promise there can be no faith – only hope.* Stay tuned for the next edition of the Badger Legionnaire for the rest of the story entitled “Faith vs Hope Part 2”, where I will explain the difference between faith and hope. Until we meet again at the Chaplains Corner may your God bring you peace.



Julie Muhle
Department
Adjutant

★★ DEPARTMENT ★★ ADJUTANT

TROOP AND FAMILY SUPPORT GETS BENEFIT FROM THE LIT

Last year, Wisconsin received \$55,000 from The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) of which, \$5,000 went to Troop and Family Support. The LIT has a wide variety of other insurance coverages, including:

- Health & Medical Benefits
 - o Cancer Care Insurance
 - o Hospital Help
 - o Long-term care
 - o Dental Insurance
 - o Health Insurance
 - o Medicare Supplement and Medicare Advantage Plans
- Emergency & Accident
 - o Philips Lifeline Medical Alert Services
 - o Travel Accident Protection
 - o Emergency Assistance Plus Program
 - o Accidental Protection
- ID Resolve (Identity Theft)

Also, don't forget about the FREE \$5,000 Accidental Death Protection while conducting Legion business and \$1,000 for all other fatal accidents! Once you sign up for this benefit, you don't need to sign up again as long as your dues remain current. Go to thelit.com to sign up for this coverage and review the other benefits mentioned above that are offered.

Our goal this year is to raise \$75,000 and continue to put money into the Troop and Family Support fund. This is made possible by the members of the Wisconsin American Legion and thank you to all who have purchased coverages.

POST 82 HOSTS OZAUKEE COUNTY ORATORICAL CONTEST



Van Ells-Schanen Port Washington Post 82 hosted the 2024 Ozaukee County American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest. Oratorical contestants were Dane Metzger, Port Washington; Hannah Peterson, Cedar Grove-Belgium; and Alani Walls, Grafton. Dane was the winner who received a \$300 scholarship. Left to Right: John Jacque, Dane Metzger, Hannah Peterson, Alani Walls, and Jim Schmidt.



County Veteran Service Officers Association of Wisconsin

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

Your local Veteran Advocates, serving you since 1935





★★ VETERANS ★★
SERVICE OFFICER

VETERAN BENEFITS

James Fialkowski
Department Veterans
Service Officer

Veteran benefits were not given, they were fought for. In the early days of The American Legion, Past National Commander Hanford MacNider wrote, "The first duty of The American Legion is to see that those men who came back from the service, blind, maimed ... broken in health and spirit ... get a square deal from the Government they fought for." Through the decades, The American Legion has fought hard for the Veteran benefits we have today to achieve that "square deal". The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was created due to the service organization efforts. Due to our efforts the VA now administers benefits for Service-Connected Compensation, Non-Service Connection Pension, Survivors Compensation Benefit, Education and Training Veteran Readiness and Employment, Home Loan Assistance, Life Insurance, Burial Benefits, Health Care, and Dental Benefits just to name the big ones. We are blessed to have had so many that came before us create the square deal we are enjoying. It is our duty to continue with diligent attention to the Veteran benefits that are needed for those serving now and those that will serve in decades to come. The American Legion is still working hard to ensure our government does the right thing for Veterans and their families.

Our Grassroots Action Center on the national website is making a difference. All the current action items on the page are worthy of your time to tell your congressional individual(s) to act. I am particularly interested in the "Tell Congress to Fight Back Against Predatory Claims Sharks" action, as I have seen Veterans that were taken for thousands by these unscrupulous companies.

A major law change can change how benefit decisions from the past could be impacted. For example, the PACT Act created many new presumptive toxic exposure areas and times for that exposure and added disabilities to those exposures. A large portion of these additional disabilities were cancers for the Gulf War Veterans as well as adding several countries to the exposed concession. Hypertension was added to the Agent Orange exposure disability list. If a Veteran or surviving spouse was previously denied by the VA for their benefits, they may now qualify. Even if the disability is not on the presumptive list but could have been caused by something that was added. Example: A Veteran died of a stroke or aneurysm that served in a (now) presumptive area for Agent Orange exposure. The addition of hypertension to the presumptive disabilities list gives a new theory of entitlement to the cause of death being service connected, as high blood pressure is one of the major causes of strokes and aneurysms. This does not guarantee the benefit but creates a strong argument for VA to grant. For someone who served in the Gulf War area that has a respiratory issue or dealt with a cancer these may now be presumptively granted even if denied before. To get more details or assistance, contact our service office at 414-902-5722 or your local County Veteran Service Office at 844-947-2876.



★★ DEPARTMENT ★★
HISTORIAN

Michelle Adams
Department
Historian

Commander Stuvengen has been quite the busy man! On February 3 he attended the VFW Midwinter Conference, the Legion Riders meeting, and the Four Chaplains Banquet and Ceremony. On February 8, he attended the New London Post 263 banquet and meeting. All attendees received lovely handmade Valentine's Day cards from the Auxiliary. February 11 started the Lincoln Pilgrimage in Illinois. I highly recommend visiting Springfield, the history is awesome, and Post 32's hospitality is exceptional! Speaking of history, on February 19 we celebrated President's Day. Auxiliary President Maggie Geiger, dressed in period attire, had scripted and acted the part of George Washington's sister. It was phenomenal! That naturally led to the Washington, D.C. conference. The first focus was BE THE ONE and suicide prevention, followed by face to face interactions with our representatives. National Commander Seehafer's address to the House and Senate Committees is a must see! It is quickly available for viewing on YouTube. The American Legion Birthday took Commander Stuvengen to Post celebrations in Caledonia, Clintonville, Orfordville, Oak Creek, and Saukville. On deck, we have the Regionals and Finals contests for the Department Oratorical program, District Banquets, and District Spring Conferences. It is in the performance of these activities under the leadership of Commander Stuvengen, that we strengthen America and care for our fellow Veterans.

BATTLING BUCKEYE'S
98TH BIRTHDAY

Just after the new year, members of the Mondovi American Legion Post 154 visited Duane Klopp at his home. The members brought birthday cards to celebrate Duane's 98th birthday, which had been in December. Pictured is Duane Klopp (seated in front) along with (back, left to right) Ron Bauer, Jim Williams, Marvin Moy, Jim Miller, and Ed Mahlum. Klopp served in the Pacific Theatre during World War II as a member of the 37th Infantry Division, also known as the "Battling Buckeyes", a National Guard unit out of Ohio.

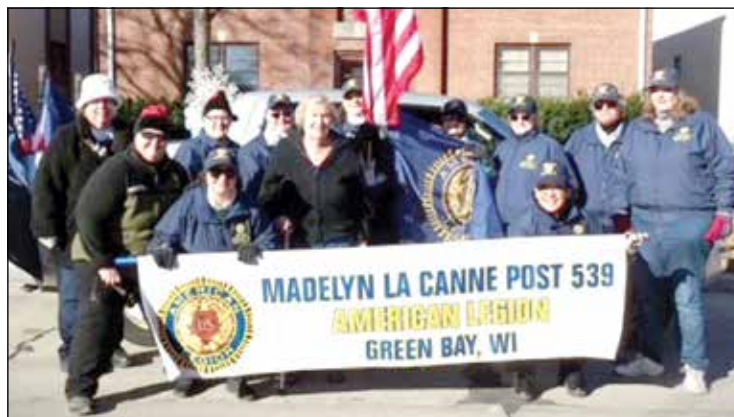


UNIT 54
QUILTS
OF VALOR

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 54 Marshfield and the Quilt Guild of Central Wisconsin held a Quilt of Valor presentation. Kym Zimmer is the official local Quilt of Valor chairperson.

GROUND ZERO
VETERANS OUTREACH

The Ground Zero Veterans Outreach, Inc. in Union Grove, WI need of donations was brought to Post 79 by Legion Member Gaylord Johnson. The A.L. Ross-Wilcox Post 79 Members were able to provide a donation of \$1,000 to Ground Zero's President Christine Luxems to help with their mission of assisting Veterans with their needs of housing and with furnishings from shower curtains to kitchen toasters and all things in between. American Legion Ross-Wilcox Post 79 of Burlington, WI members are grateful to be able to provide these monetary funds. Pictured are Ground Zero Volunteer Ingrid Perion and American Legion Ross-Wilcox Post 79 Finance Officer Jim Schmitz on February 8.



POST 539 KEEPS
A BUSY SCHEDULE

Post 539 participated in many events prior to the holidays, including (above) the Green Bay Prevea Holiday Parade.



Julie Muhle
Department
Adjutant

★★ DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP ★★

How many times have you been at an event and given a membership application to a potential new member only to never see that member again? What if I told you this didn't have to happen? You could sign up a new member or renew a member right on the spot!

Have the potential new member take out their smart phone (or they can use yours if they take out a flip phone) and go to our website – wilegion.org/join-now and fill out the form! There is a field to allow the member to indicate what post they would like to go to, which will save them money versus going into the 2930 transition post. The information comes to headquarters, we process the credit card and put the new person into the post they indicated on the form! The member is instantly signed up.

How about your members who haven't renewed? You can help them with the same process! Go to wilegion.org and click on Renew. They can fill out the information, including their post, along with their credit card information. The information again, comes to headquarters, where we process the credit card and make the renewal happen.

Don't let potential members get away! Sign them up on the spot.



KOREAN VET MAKES IT TO THE BIG SCREEN

Command Sergeant Major Laverne Neve was honored last year at American Family Field during a Milwaukee Brewers game. He is a WWII, Korea and Vietnam Vet and is a member of The American Legion Post 54 for 52 years.



Paul Fisk
Foundation
President

★ AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION ★

GET A BULL'S-EYE Support Jr. Shooting Sports

Join the Youth of today by supporting The WI American Legion **Jr. Shooting Sports** program. Participants learn skills in gun safety, leadership, working together and good sportsmanship. The *WI American Legion Foundation* asks for your help to provide support to continue this program in the years to come. All funds raised will be used for the program as well as provide scholarship monies in the Senior category (15-18 years old).

Tax deductible donations may be sent to:

Wisconsin American Legion Foundation
P.O. Box 827
Portage, WI 53901
Designation: *Shooting Sports*

POST 212 50-YEAR MEMBERSHIP



Jim Rausch (left) was recently presented a 50-year American Legion membership certificate by Barron American Legion Commander Greg Roth (right). Jim is a Vietnam Era Veteran who served in Germany while in the Army and joined the American Legion shortly after returning home from his military service.

COON VALLEY POST 116 DONATES FUNDS FOR FLAGS ON MAIN STREET



Coon Valley American Legion Post 116 Commander Michael "Mike" Callan, left, is shown presenting a check for \$500 to Coon Valley Village President Karl Henrichsen for the "Flags on Main Street" project. The Coon Valley American Legion presents a check annually to keep American flags flying on Main Street in Coon Valley, Wisconsin.
Submitted by Frank Mathison, Post 116 Historian.



CAMP AMERICAN LEGION . . .

SPRING'S ARRIVAL MEANS MAPLE SYRUP AT CAMP



Jim Klement
Camp American
Legion Director

Spring is in the air here at Camp American Legion. We are in the process of making maple syrup. We have already gathered over 350 gallons that we will need to boil down this next week. Thank you to the volunteers that have helped with the process. I would love to expand in the coming years, so if you have never experienced the process consider helping next year.

There is a lot of work to be done before the summer season begins. One of the major projects is a new cabin. Brillion, Little Chute and Mukwonago are combining cabins and creating a new duplex. Each side will be able to comfortably fit 4 campers and will be a great addition to Camp.

Camp is full for this summer and we are

looking forward to having campers out on the pontoons, kids at the beach and the smell of fresh meals being baked by our wonderful chefs. Most of the staff that help operate camp are volunteers. If you would like to become a volunteer or would just like more information about volunteering, Camp is having a volunteer recruitment meeting. The meeting date is May 17 starting at 1 p.m. so please come up and enjoy. We will go over the upcoming season and what is expected of volunteers. You will have a chance to meet our wonderful volunteer coordinator, Monica. She does an amazing job and makes sure that volunteers have everything that they need when they are at camp.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call camp.

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



"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

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

6 Stevens Point	Robert Bennett	V
Maynard Tetzloff	WWII	
8 Waukesha	William Liner	K
Thomas J. Kiehl Sr.	Zachery J. Shircel	V
9 Wisconsin Rapids	Charles L. Piester	K
Allen C. Schlinsog	47 Portage	V
Charles W. King	Erv Briggs	V
Robert J. Gardner	48 Beloit	K
10 Wausau	George O. Myhrvold	K
George D. Klinker	51 West Salem	K
Arleigh E. Utecht	Joe Hesselberg	K
Mike Tellekson	52 La Crosse	V
Darla Porter	G/L Russell W. Rankin	WWII
James W. Maxey	John Grabinski	WWII
Robert D. Junion	Larry E. Norris	V
11 Green Bay	Donald C. Martinson	K
Gary J. Dalebroux	James A. Cavaiuolo	V
Duane Pierce	Don Pogreba	V
Chester Nuskiewicz	53 Eau Claire	V
David L. Kellner	Connie Chumas	K
Bertram I. Milson	Gerald E. Giese	WWII
Eugene Vanenkervort	Glenn E. Voss	WWII
Charles Arcand	56 Fountain City	V
Paul B. Plog	Clarence Auseth	K
13 Richland Center	60 Kimberly	V
Virgil Peckham	Donald G. Weyenberg	WWII
18 Milwaukee	Earl Plass	K
Robert Golata	61 Prescott	V
Richard Baehring	Howard L. Meier	WWII
19 Hartford	62 Columbus	V
Kenneth Krescheck	Dale F. Sennhenn	V
24 Lake Geneva	63 Clintonville	V
Randy Scott	Howard H. Hamilton	V
Paul A. Scott	James A. Borchardt	V
Donald O. Schaefer	Lawrence D. Prickett	PG
Cletus C. Ahler	Barry R. Hansen Sr.	V
26 Baraboo	67 Lake Mills	V
Homer A. Heslep	Fred Dettmann	WWII
29 Kewaunee	James R. Markgraf	V
William J. Doperalski	68 Prairie du Chien	V
38 Appleton	James Hendricks	V
Dale Dewildt	69 Mayville	V
Clarke M. Poad	Chester O. Margelofsky	K
Thomas J. Ohearn	Gordon H. Grantman	WWII
Monroe E. Trout	Jerrold C. Gruber	K
40 Bangor	Conrad J. Langenhorst	K
Boyd Dow	70 Oshkosh	V
41 Kaukauna	Paul Nebel	V
Ronald Arndt	75 Fond du Lac	V
Henry J. Drechsler	Thomas M. Asher	V
44 Wabeno	Gerald Winter	V
Raymond Ehlinger		

Terry R. Gokey	V
Robert E. Plummer	WWII
James L. Kolander	V
Kenneth O. Kirchner	V
Franklin Wilhelms	K
77 Chippewa Falls	V
Carl W. Miller	P
Larry Wyss	V
Robert W. Smith	V
80 New Richmond	V
Samuel E. King	V
Warren J. Dardine	K
Stanley W. Barr	K
83 Sheboygan	V
Dennis Stoelb	V
84 Monroe	V
Marty Betts	V
87 Rice Lake	V
Charles T. Murphy	K
Douglas A. Berchild	V
Hiram W. Brown	WWII
Richard Pajula	V
88 Manitowoc	V
Stanley A. Zirk	K
Owen W. Delong	V
Lyle L. Heide	K
89 Minocqua	V
Byron E. Vanmeter	K
John T. Mattioli Sr.	PG
James J. Clay	V
Raymond J. Vileikis	WWII
91 Oconomowoc	V
David E. Hoisington Sr.	V
Charles P. Kasprzak	V
John Ehlers	K
93 Tomahawk	V
Robert C. Uski	V
95 Delavan	V
Charles R. Webster	V
Willard J. Bultman	V
104 Cuba City	V
William L. Kessler	K
Gunter Malik	V
173 Whitewater	V
Dale L. Runde	K
Emmett J. Runde	K
106 Seymour	V
Richard L. Debuhr	V
Allen Weitemann	V
108 Clear Lake	V
James L. Morelock	V
110 New Lisbon	V
Gerald H. Ristow	V
111 Somerset	V
John P. Koonce	V
Joel H. Johnson	K
114 Eagle River	V
John Jozwowski	V
Max E. Rockafellow	V
116 Coon Valley	V
Donald Bina	V
118 Thorp	V
Marion S. Teclaw	K
Scott H. Mason	K
121 River Falls	V
Jerry Peterson	V
Jerry C. Brandt	V
Kerry Finn	G/L
Don Richardson	V
Lawrence Hennemann	V
124 New Holstein	V
David L. Brandenburg	V
126 Brillion	V
Lonnie Puskala	V
129 Black River Falls	V
Charles J. Wussow	K
132 Siren	V
Glenn L. Nordin	K

Jack C. Hedlund	V
Rudolf W. Mothes	V
Wallace L. Nelson	V
134 Boscobel	V
Frederick E. Waltz	V
141 New Glarus	V
Paul C. Ziehli	K
Norman Hanna	WWII
Lowell Nevil	K
Eugene Duffy	K
142 Blanchardville	V
Marselino Miranda Jr.	V
143 St. Croix Falls	V
Darwin D. Draisey	K
John O. Lee	V
Robert R. Kortas	V
Richard D. Larson Sr.	V
145 Random Lake	V
Norbert Lohuis	K
146 Beaver Dam	V
Robert E. Koch	K
Eugene K. Hintz	K
David A. Budde	V
147 Medford	V
Thomas W. Nelson	K
154 Mondovi	V
Donald D. Hanson	K
160 Brooklyn	V
Ken L. Clayton	V
161 King	V
Phillip G. Hagen	V
Dennis F. Kinney	K
165 Two Rivers	V
Earl R. Shoemaker	V
Allan A. Duval	K
Douglas Pierson	V
Herbert L. Bunke	K
166 Fort Atkinson	V
David J. Schelb	V
171 Union Grove	V
Carl J. McDaniel	V
Donald W. Molitor	K
173 Whitewater	V
Muril T. Fields	K
182 Park Falls	V
Dave Shaw	V
185 Grantsburg	V
Mark Halvorsen	V
187 Wisconsin Dells	V
Robert N. Wick	K
Duane F. Wilcox	WWII
Michael R. Swansby	V
Frank J. Zawlocki	V
Walter L. Zeppelin	V
199 Reedsville	V
Donald Krajnik	K
Eugene R. Ramesh	K
200 Black River Falls	V
John A. Schildman	K
201 Tomah	V
Meredith L. Baldwin	V
204 Ellsworth	V
Rob J. Mathis	PG
205 Janesville	V
Lawrence S. Spors	K
Mel A. Lefoll	V
210 Waupun	V
Garrett Yunto	WWII
Vernon T. Farley	K
Paul R. Abresch	PG
218 Hayward	V
Dan B. Dahlstrom	V
220 Soldiers Grove	V
James R. Benson	K
227 Spring Valley	V
Arland C. Aamodt	K
Bert J. Lansing	V

230 De Pere	V
Lloyd R. Witte	K
William C. Rentmeester	K
236 Algoma	V
Lawrence A. Leist	V
242 La Valle	V
Lawrance C. Geitz	K
248 Cottage Grove	V
Truman Nienstedt	V
250 Adams	V
Martin A. Nolet	V
251 Argyle	V
Dean Burrell	K
253 Spring Green	V
Clay R. Williams	V
Vern Demers	V
258 Little Chute	V
Christian Rutten	K
Keith Fleming	PG
Dan Lehrer	V
Owen Sonsthagen	K
Thomas M. Hammen	V
Don Weyers	V
Richard Wyngaard	K
Donald J. Ebben	K
263 New London	V
David Wochinski	V
264 Gilmanton	V
Bruce A. Severson	V
271 Poynette	V
John Litsheim	V
273 Grand Marsh	V
Miles E. Lebensorger	V
282 Markesan	V
Robert E. Miller	K
288 Cedarburg	V
Leo A. Thiel	V
Elton Streich	V
Alec Wolter	V
Valorie A. Beres-Schroeder	PG
294 Hartland	V
Bill Harroun	V
295 Bloomer	V
Jack Wolf	V
299 Hales Corners	V
Howard W. Hingiss	WWII
300 Gillett	V
Robert G. Steinberger	V
306 Green Lake	V
Bruce O. Grampo	V
313 Black Earth	V
Ronald Sarbacker	PG
316 Sheldon	V
Kenneth H. Vantreesse	V
Robert L. Bladow	K
319 Casco	V
Larry D. Anderson	WWII
322 Babcock	V
Don Brandt	V
326 Boyd	V
John J. Hatfield	WWII
330 Wilson	V
Lance A. Snyder	PG
John F. Kuehl Jr.	V
333 Sun Prairie	V
Larry E. Kouba	V
336 Onalaska	V
Gerald E. Kjos	V
James E. Page	V
337 Pulaski	V
Robert Holewinski	K
343 Hancock	V
Ted Schlinsky	WWII
347 Lomira	V
John Vercauteren	V
351 Montello	V
Kenneth W. Busalacchi	V
Ryan K. Mantz Sr.	GWOT

353 Cornell	V
Frank Vavra	V
Frank S. Jevne	V
Wayne McMenamin	K
355 Grafton	V
John F. Lempke	V
Lyle E. Langenhahn	K
Neil W. Traxel	V
356 Muskego	V
Robert E. Shaw	V
360 Waunakee	V
Raymond Hellenbrand	K
Richard F. Acker	V
Paul Bernards	K
363 Denmark	V
Lawrence Mancheski	K
Francis J. Wilhelm	V
Norman Sengbusch	WWII
John Miller	K
375 Mukwonago	V
Edgar J. Loomis	K
382 Menomonee Falls	V
Michael J. Held	V
384 Kewaskum	V
Victor L. Skindzelewski	V
Russell W. Oelhafen	V
Marvin G. Kuehl	K
Vincent Nigh	K
393 Edgar	V
Clifford Stencil	V
398 Plain	V
Melvin Heiser	K
400 Wauwatosa	V
Mike Baus	V
402 Washington Island	V
Kari Johnson	V
413 Crivitz	V
Frank G. Welti	V
415 Milwaukee	V
James M. Piorkowski	V
James Gruenewald	V
Leo F. Melchior	WWII
416 Greendale	V
Floyd O. Spencer	K
Irvin Rybacki	K
Alexander G. Jastrab	WWII
Thomas Eaton	K
Cyril N. Seliger	K
Lawrence M. Obrien	V
417 French Isle (La Crosse)	V
James M. McCann	V
431 Three Lakes	V
Gerald M. Besenhofer	V

Ted Wysocki	V
492 Rothschild	V
Thomas M. Leblanc	V
493 Linden	V
Richard Tallman	V
495 Sussex	V
Thomas E. Reuter	V
499 Gordon	V
Richard J. Kotnour	K
Michael Simmons	V
501 Madison	V
Eugene E. Sheets	K
Donald W. Olman	K
506 Iron River	V
Gary D. Gustafson	V
516 Mason	V
John R. Greene	K
521 Fox Lake	V
Charles L. Koehn	K
526 Hazel Green	V
James Demuth	V
533 Bancroft	V
Clyde A. Degroff	V
534 McFarland	V
Harlan Freitag	V
John L. Kellesvig	K
Robert O. Sorenson	V
538 Carlton	V
Laddie G. Frank Jr.	V
541 Northfield	V
Jon D. Doring Sr.	V
543 Plover	V
Jim Sachs	V
544 Twin Lakes	V
Gordon Kaskin	WWII
547 Lublin	V
Delmar Anderson	K
Raymond Lewan	K
550 Brackett	V
Harold A. Kuhnert	V
Donald Biesecker	V
552 Somers	V
Lloyd E. Dissmore	WWII
2930 Portage	V
Franz Gosset	PG
Randall Dopke	V
Clarence J. Heck	P
Ken Koehn	V
Carl Seefeld	K
Ralph Patterman	K
Robert Fellwock	V
Clarence Aaron Anderson	V

POST 534 FLAG DISPOSAL CEREMONY

Post 534 disposed of more than 400 flags. Left to right, Cory Gessler, Russel Jenkins, Dale V Sankey, Nate Weier, Steve Halverson.

WISCONSIN



April 2024

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

alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

The official publication of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

www.amlegionauxwi.org

MEMBERSHIP

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

Many questions have arisen about the membership goals for units. These goals are meant to be incentives. Units are not penalized or shamed for not reaching their membership goal. However, the goals are an incentive to work toward.

Be visible in your communities, share your projects, show others that you enjoy what you are doing. Share your stories of whom you are honoring as we are all very proud of those we honor. They have given of themselves, some even with their lives, and we should share their stories with our communities. More importantly, we must educate our children on what sacrifices were made to make this United States of America the land of the free.

We need to join together in our units and put on a united front. It is human nature to have our best buddies, while ignoring or even shaming others. We must all unite and put our personal feelings aside to be able to truly honor those that we joined under. These men and women had to put their personal feelings aside to unite together to fight for the freedoms we all enjoy. It is our duty to do the same, understandably this may not be easy. Some of us have

opinions that we want others to adopt. We are all right and on the other hand we are all wrong. We need each and every one of your opinions to meld together in the pot, mixing together to come up with a common goal. Just as everyone has different skills, different jobs, different cultures, we have all mixed together to make this world a delightful mixture that makes up the human race. Celebrate one another, look for the good in each other and set aside your dislikes. We will all be better for doing this.

Units, you should be reaching out to members that have not shown up for meetings or events lately. Reach out to see if they need some assistance in any way. Like a lot of people, they may not want to ask for help but may accept it if offered. Sometimes a simple, "Hi! How are you doing! We all miss you!" is enough to get them engaged again.

Communication is lacking in all of us. We need to reach out to our fellow members and let them know they are needed to fulfill our mission. They also have joined to honor someone near and dear to them. We need to honor those they are honoring by supporting and welcoming our members, whether they are active or not. We need to stay in contact with all the members of our units in a timely way. By doing this we will strengthen our units and ourselves.

2024 Membership Totals (as of 3/19/24) – 80.17%

DIST.	GOAL %	MUSHER
12	89.08%	Baby Girl
6	85.88%	Denali
3	84.41%	Ranger
5	83.75%	Little Girl
2	83.06%	Sloane
4	81.39%	Winkle
7	80.73%	Hero
8	80.28%	Isabella
9	79.53%	Percy
1	79.39%	Diamond
10	79.26%	Balto
11	72.01%	D.O.G



The American Legion Family

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY TESTIMONIAL

Department of Wisconsin Celebrates:
TAL Commander Karl Stuvengen
ALA President Maggie Geiger
SAL Detachment Commander Allen Watry
ALRA Director Corey Doehrmann

When: Saturday, May 18, 2024

Where: La Sure's Banquet Hall
3125 S Washburn St
Oshkosh WI 54904

Schedule: 5:30 – 6:30 pm, Social Hour/Cash Bar
6:30 pm, Opening Ceremony/Family Style Dinner

Dinner: Main Entrees: Crispy Fried Chicken and Pork Loin w/Honey Garlic Butter Sauce

Cost: \$40.00 per person

Housing: Hotel accommodations on your own
Cobblestone Suites (920-303-1133, block of rooms available under American Legion Testimonial)

Other hotels within 5 miles of La Sure's:

- Hilton Garden Inn 920-966-1300
- Quality Inn 920-232-0300
- Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott 920-233-8504
- Super 8 by Wyndham 920-252-6296

RSVP: Register no later than Wednesday, May 8, 2024



Register online at <https://events.eventzilla.net/e/tal-family-testimonial-2138606917>
OR

Mail check payable to Debi Stuvengen to: 414 E. Spring Street, Orfordville, WI 53576.

Name(s): _____

No. Attending: _____ x \$40/person = \$ _____
(Total enclosed)



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

President Maggie's project is in support of Dogs2Dogtags, "Saving Our Vets One Dog at a Time." For God and country, we will raise funds together at the Department Convention to be held July 11 – 13, 2024.

I am asking every unit to please bring a donated basket for the raffles. I ask that they have a card with listed items and title of a donating unit, district, or member(s). Please wrap the baskets in cellophane.

Every day different baskets will be raffled off. On Saturday, any unclaimed baskets will be priced to be bought outright. There will also be a unique side fundraiser in honor of President Maggie's project.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

I look forward to a successful convention.

Thank you,

Crystal Shaw, Department Fundraising Chair
crystalspres@gmail.com 262-672-8205

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Betty Stone
Department Chaplain
bjstone626@hotmail.com

Matthew 6: 33-34

33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

34 So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

PRAYER

Dear Lord,

You are the creator of the universe and everything in it. We see how you love color and fresh smelling air. Today, we are enjoying your season we call Spring. As we see the beauty around us, we lift up our praise and thanksgiving to you for the beautiful world you have given us.

You know our very need even before we need it. Lord, help us to internalize your love for us so we can count on you instead of worrying. Guide us and protect us, in your precious name, Amen.

MUSIC

Sing AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL as you look at the Spring come in.

PRAYER BOOK REMINDER

I am compiling a prayer book for President Maggie. If you would like to contribute to this book, send your prayers to: Betty Stone, bjstone626@hotmail.com. I thank you for your contributions.

Each District may submit a prayer book to me by July 1st for judging. Send your district's prayer book to: W5468 Main St., Sheldon, WI 54766.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Karen Runk
Department Chairman
kmrunk4@gmail.com
608-415-2001

April is Military Children's Month and April 15 is Purple Up! Day

Purple Up! is a day to recognize military children for their bravery, flexibility and courage while enduring countless parental deployments, relocations, school changes and more. It's purple because of the mixture of military branch colors.

So it's time to discuss budget, strategy and activities to observe Purple Up! Day with military children in your extended Legion family or children of reserve and guards in your local school. Simply contact the school administration to find out how many children, their ages, and if you could deliver activity packs, greeting cards with gift card or pencil pouches with Star-Spangled Kids, I Spy, or junior member and SAL info.

National Security Chairman Karen Runk and Lorie Ballweg of Unit 245 developed a printable Purple Up! Day card for units to send to the children of active duty Reserves/Guards and full-time military with gift cards, activity packs or pencil pouches, etc. The card can be printed from the department website (www.amlegionauxwi.org > Programs > National Security).

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

While Wisconsin has experienced one of the mildest winters on record, we are still anxiously awaiting the telltale signs of spring. Flowers will be blooming soon which also means National Poppy Day is right around the corner – May 24, 2024. But don't forget that poppies can be distributed all year long – Memorial Day, Flag Day, 4th of July, community celebrations, Veterans Day, etc. Sharing the crepe paper poppy and its story are great ways to remind the community how much our Veterans sacrificed on our behalf and how the ALA continues to support our Veterans and military.

Units and posts must submit 20% of their poppy profits to Department to support the VA hospitals in Wisconsin, Minneapolis and Iron Mountain; the Wisconsin Veterans Homes; Dayton Care Center in Kenosha; and Camp American Legion. Poppy profits also fund scholarships, grants to homeless women Veterans, emergency assistance for Veterans and active-duty military personnel, and the Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Units and posts use the balance of poppy proceeds for the direct benefit of Veterans or service members where a medical or financial need is evident. Thank you to everyone who supports the Poppy Program!

The 2024 ALA Department Convention is scheduled for July 11-14, 2024 at the Hilton Paper Valley hotel in Appleton. The opening procession will start at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, July 12 so the convention can be called to order at 9:30 a.m. A recognition program will be held on Friday at 3:00 p.m. including a tribute to honored Past Department President Florence Wasley and presentation of 2023-2024 district membership awards. Department's governing documents will be updated, new officers will be elected and installed, and Fundraising Chairman Crystal Shaw is coordinating a basket raffle. Visit the website for more convention details and please consider attending in July.

The 2024 National Convention will be held in New Orleans with ALA convention sessions from August 26-28, 2024. Registration and housing forms are posted on the department website and other information will be added as it becomes available. Anyone interested in attending should ask to be nominated as an Alternate by their District President. Members who prefer to attend as a guest only, should notify Bonnie Dorniak (deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org) to request a convention packet when available.

2024 ALA DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin
Thursday-Sunday, July 11-14, 2024

Official Call: The 2024 American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention will be called into session at the Hilton Paper Valley, 333 West College Avenue, Appleton at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, July 12, 2024.

Purpose: The purpose of the department convention is to elect officers for the 2024-2025 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 2024 Department Convention must submit a registration form and \$30 per person to The American Legion by July 6, 2024. Registrations after July 6 will be \$35.

Voting: All delegates must be registered by 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 13 and seated within their District for voting at 9:00 a.m. Business will resume as soon as voting is completed.

Housing Blocks: Housing has been arranged at the Hilton Paper Valley hotel, 333 West College Avenue in Appleton. Discounted room rates of \$112 plus tax will be available until June 11, 2024 or when the room block is filled, whichever comes first. Additional hotels in the area:

Hampton Inn Appleton - Fox River Mall
350 Fox River Drive
920-954-9211
Room Block: Wisconsin American Legion
\$114.00 plus tax

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott
130 S Nicolet Rd.
920-939-8181
\$119.00 plus tax

La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham
3800 W College Avenue
920-734-7777
\$129.00 plus tax

Four Points by Sheraton Appleton
300 Mall Drive
920-993-1200
\$139.00 plus tax

Deceased Members: Names of deceased members that are sent to Department Headquarters by April 26, 2024 on a Member Data Form will appear in the Joint Memorial Service Program.

Installation: Installation of 2024-2025 Department Officers and District Presidents will be on Saturday, July 13 upon conclusion of convention business.

POPPY PROGRAM

Kay Grosskopf
Department Chair
kkgros44@gmail.com
715-881-1843

We are getting to the culmination of the Poppy year. May is Poppy month and May 24 is National Poppy Day this year. Has your unit thought about a Poppy Proclamation in your city, town or village? You can find a sample proclamation on the department website under Programs > Poppy. Post this proclamation in your local paper, via the Chamber of Commerce, on your Facebook page, or any other means you use to communicate to the public. Then go out in force and distribute poppies.

But remember that May is not the only month to distribute and promote the poppy. All year we should be educating the public about the poppy. We can educate our youth through the poppy poster contest. Before students embark on designing their poster, they should know the background and story of the poppy (besides the rules). What better time than Veterans Day? Or Pearl Harbor Day? Or Armed Forces Day (May 18)? Of course, Memorial Day. The Poppy Poster contest can be conducted any time of the year, only the judging takes place in the spring. Think about this as you plan for the coming year's events.

Thank you to all the students that participated in the Poppy Poster contest. They have not been judged as of this writing but I'm certain

it won't be an easy task. And don't forget Little Miss Poppy. All those Poppy Princesses that did such an outstanding job bringing awareness of the Poppy and the program.

Have a little fun but be respectful. Always ask permission before distributing poppies at a business no matter how many years you may have been there. Ownership/management and policies change so confirm first, distribute second.

Be creative when distributing poppies. Unit 79 in Burlington got creative and up to date. They designed a bookmark with the *Who will wear a Poppy* poem on one side and poppies with the ALA branding on the other side. In our ever-growing cashless society, they are adding a QR code which will direct the recipient to a Go Fund Me page for their Auxiliary. The page will also have information about the Poppy program. That's being creative! With forward thinking.

NOTE: The May Public Relations Zoom meeting will feature how to create a QR code. PR Zoom meetings are held the last Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm. Stay for all or part of the meeting and everyone is invited. If you don't get notifications about these Zoom meetings, please reach out to PR Chairman Bob Shappell (bobshap@aol.com) to get the link.

I'm looking forward to reading all the unit reports for their Poppy programs. I'm sure there will be some creative ideas for distribution. I can't wait to share them with all of our units.

It will be a fun time at convention in Appleton this year, handing out awards.

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

HONORING PDP FLORENCE WASLEY (2010-2011)

Past Department President Florence Wasley will be the honored guest at the 2024 Department Convention at the Hilton Paper Valley in Appleton, Wisconsin. Florence is a 48-year PUF member of Unit 493 in Linden, Iowa County, District 3. She served as Department President from 2010-2011.

Florence's eligibility for membership is through the 20 years of Air Force Radio Operator service of her late husband, Emery Wasley, Sr. and her son, Emery Junior, who served 20 years as a Superintendent of Base Systems earning the rank of First Sergeant. Currently, her granddaughter, Korra Wasley, is in the ROTC program in the Nursing Corps. Upon graduation in 2025, Korra will be a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army.

Florence was employed as an elementary school teacher for 30 years in California, Japan, Florida, and Wisconsin before retiring in 1996. Florence continued substituting until 2008, when she became more involved in the Auxiliary.

Florence's experience and leadership were gained by her many chairmanships and offices in her unit, county, district, and department levels.

Florence's theme, "Striving For Excellence," has proven to be a part of her life from attending a one-room country school. Her special project was helping Homeless Women Veterans, which has become one of Wisconsin's grant programs. She wants to thank each of you who contributed in any way to help our women military veterans in need. Florence also wishes to thank Kathy Wollmer and her staff for their assistance in getting this supportive program off the ground.



Florence will be honored during the recognition program on Friday, July 12 at 3:00 p.m. Please make plans to join her.

Florence will be honored during the recognition program on Friday, July 12 at 3:00 p.m. Please make plans to join her.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Bonnie Jakubczyk
Department Chairman
bon6862@yahoo.com

It is time to kick Spring off by recognizing our volunteers during April's National Volunteer month. While visiting our VA medical facilities, it is heartwarming to see how our very devoted volunteers are making a difference for our Veterans. Thank you to all those who work directly with our Veterans and give them a great first impression of the American Legion Auxiliary. To all those crafty ones who make items such as tray favors, lap blankets, baby items, or cards, thank you for your talent and time which bring joy to them. A huge thank you to our volunteers for your dedication, time, and money.

One of my highlights at Zablocki is the annual baby shower. Thanks to your generous donations, we can purchase items twice a year for the showers. There were some adorable crocheted animals, blankets, and hats made by our volunteers and President Maggie helped serve the food.

Does your unit have some extra money that they are looking to donate? VA facilities' wish list items do change, so please check with the Hospital Representatives for what the current needs are at their facilities. There is also the National Veterans Creative Arts – four Veterans from Zablocki are going to Denver in May to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Make sure to share what your unit has done this year by filling out the Unit Impact report due to your District President by April 15 and VA&R Unit Annual Narrative Report for 2023-2024, which is due to Department Headquarters by April 15, 2024. Remember to include pictures (JPEG format),

stories, newspaper clippings, flyers, activity reports, and success stories. By sending in your reports, we can share your activities with National, thus highlighting how our Wisconsin units are working on our mission.

Sharing this quote from Elizabeth Andrew, "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

The American Legion Family is promoting the Be The One mission to end Veteran suicide and has joined forces with Columbia University to develop training for those who want to learn more about interacting and responding with Veterans who may be in crisis.



After the training, participants will be able to:

- Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to determine at-risk individuals.
- Identify risk factors and warning signs.
- Outline the types of suicidal ideation and four behaviors that indicate imminent risk.
- Communicate effectively with individuals who may be at risk of hurting themselves.

Members of The American Legion Family are encouraged to take part in this training. For more information, visit <https://www.legion.org/betheone>.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Margaret Larson
Department Chairman
715-410-7936
maggiedoit@hotmail.com

Are you looking for that special "hero" or child that has done a good deed? I am proud to announce that I will be presenting a Good Deed Award later this month to Riley Unruh, age 10, who took it upon herself to get the first-ever dog park in her hometown of Glenwood City, Wisconsin.



The idea started when Riley, who wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up, had to write a paper in the third grade. All her friends were writing about why there should be a class pet. Riley took it a step further and wrote why there should be a dog park. She took her idea to the city council with her plan – where it was going to go, what materials she was going to use, and how it was going to be funded. She didn't miss a beat. Riley's plan got approved in November 2022 and she began fundraising. She created flyers, placed donation boxes around town, and even advertised at a local basketball tournament. After nearly a year and countless hours of hard work, Riley's Dog Park opened at Hinman Park. Riley was at the ribbon cutting ceremony and Channels 13 and 18 televised the event. She also has a Facebook page: Riley's Dog Park.

started screaming, "There are kids in the car! They just stole my car with my kids inside!"

Adam's wife Brittany used the "Find my iPhone" feature to locate the vehicle, which had stopped behind a Batteries Plus store, just a short distance from the Kwik Trip. She relayed the location to her husband who was talking to the police on a second borrowed line when she saw she had a new voicemail from her husband's phone. It was their 8-year old daughter, Charley, screaming for help. Charley said a person stole the car and was telling her to leave, but she didn't want to leave her 2-year old sister behind. Then another car pulled up alongside the stolen car and the thief jumped out and into the car and drove off. Charley noticed that he left her dad's phone behind, so she called her mom. They were all reunited with much hugging and both girls received teddy bears from the police officers. Adam Jorgenson said there are true benefits to having the "Find my iPhone" app.

A Youth Hero Award will also be presented in the near future to Charley Jorgenson, age 8, from Oak Creek, Wisconsin. Adam Jorgenson had just gotten a car wash at Kwik Trip and got out to dry it off, leaving the car running. Someone from a nearby Buick SUV asked him for directions. While looking over at them, he saw his own vehicle take off. He immediately



UNIT 33 PIE FUNDRAISER

ALA Unit 33 in Neenah celebrated Presidents' Day with a pie social, raising over \$700 for the unit. They sold red, white and blue pies by the slice or in whole (cherry, apple and blueberry pies). The unit looks forward to making this an annual event.

Rebecca (Becky) Mueller for Department President

I am excited and humbled to announce my candidacy for the office of ALA Department of Wisconsin President. I have appreciated the opportunity to serve you for the past years as an officer and chairman. I hope during these past years I have earned your trust and that you have confidence in my ability to lead this great organization on the department level.



Rebecca (Becky) Mueller

I have gained 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 during the Vietnam era, and my deceased father's service in the Army during the late 1950s. Many family members have taken advantage of the opportunity to belong to this wonderful American Legion Family in various capacities.

I became a member of Krause-Kraft-Mueller Unit 106, Seymour in 2007. Since that time, I have served on the unit, county, district and department levels as the opportunity arose. My plan is to continue to be of service to and with this organization in whatever capacity I am needed.

Traveling to many parts of the state and visiting units and posts in every district, I have learned so much about and with 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 accomplishments and I look forward to our future endeavors together.

New Life United Methodist Church, Seymour has certified me as a Lay Speaker for the denomination. Within my congregation I serve on many committees, facilitate a weekly bible study, and occasionally lead 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 Senior Vice President

Sue Hembrook announces her candidacy for Department Senior Vice President. Her journey in the American Legion Auxiliary began 21 years ago at the unit level. In addition to chairing many committees in her unit, she served as unit president for five 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.



Sue Hembrook

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, 2022-2023 Central Division Americanism Chairman, and currently Central Division National Security Chairman.

She is eligible for membership through the service

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

Sue and her husband are members of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Wilmot, WI. She has been involved in her faith community with their school, parish council and many other fundrais-

ing events sponsored by the church and school. Her dedication to this organization and our Veterans has been steadfast. She supports the VAs wholeheartedly as they supported her family when her father contracted MS and 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 him and also the support given to the family. She will dedicate herself by doing her best to support this organization and our Veterans.

Amy Luft for 1st Vice President

Amy Luft is excited to announce her candidacy for the position of Department 1st Vice President. Amy is endorsed for this position by the Rose-Harms Unit 355 in Grafton.



Amy Luft

Amy's passion for the American Legion Auxiliary has provided her many opportunities. As a Paid-Up-For-Life 18-year member, she has served in many different officer positions including president of her unit, county and 2nd District.

Amy also participated in many different areas at the department level. Her past chairmanships have included Americanism (winning the National Award for Best Americanism Program), Leadership (winning the Department Award for Excellence), National Security, Public Relations and Membership team. In addition, she co-chaired the ALA In-the-Know and served on the Strategic Planning Committee. Currently, Amy serves as the Department 2nd Vice President.

At the national level, Amy had the honor of serving as the National Convention Chairman for the 2022 National Convention in Milwaukee. Currently, she serves as the National Leadership Chair for Central Division.

Amy has attended several National Mission Training classes and has completed many ALA Academy courses. She is also a graduate of the Wisconsin American Legion College.

As a member of Stars & Stripes Honor Flight since 2009, Amy served as Vice President for 10 years and continues to serve as an ambassador for the program. To date she has participated in 50 honor flights.

Amy is also a member of the VFW Auxiliary Unit 5373 of Ozaukee County. She volunteers with Interfaith Caregivers, Meals On Wheels and has served as a Village Trustee for the Village of Grafton since 2020. Amy has a degree in Business Management and spent over 22 years in sales and marketing in the senior healthcare industry. Currently, Amy works in the nonprofit sector at a local food pantry. Amy and her husband Todd have two daughters and two grandsons who belong to the American Legion Family.

Amy's goal is to promote the initiatives and programs of The American Legion Family while supporting and advocating for Veterans, military and their families.

A 16-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Karen Runk is eligible for membership through the service of her youngest brother who is currently on active duty and that of her late father following the adoption of the Legion Act. Service to Veterans is part of every chapter of Karen's adult life and continues to be her priority and passion.

Karen has been actively volunteering as a member of Kerl-Endres-Brannan Unit 245 of Cross Plains since 2008 from wherever she has resided, assisting units and other Veteran service organizations in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Illinois with fundraising, recruiting and volunteer events.



Karen Runk

Her beloved Unit 245 and District 3 have endorsed Karen's candidacy for Department 2nd Vice President.

Since returning to Wisconsin in 2015, Karen has served in leadership positions in her unit, county, district and department. She has previously served as Unit 245 Vice President and President, Dane County President, District 3 President, several District 3 chairmanships (Leadership, Military Families, VA&R, Community Service, and Children & Youth) and department Leadership committee member. She is currently serving as the National Security Chairman for the department of Wisconsin.

Betty Stone for Department Historian

I, Betty Stone, would like to run for Department Historian for the 2024-2025 administrative year. I have been an American Legion Auxiliary member for the last 47 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 times for two years each; Department - Scholarship Chairman, Chaplain, and on the membership committee.



Betty Stone

Outside of the ALA, I have been in church work since age 16; teaching Sunday school, youth groups, bible studies, and planning events. I take part in community activities, including Sheldon Village Board Trustee.

Currently, I am the facilitator for our prayer group that meets once a week. I also am in charge of the yearly Ladies Encounter at our church. I have been involved in our church camp where I have taught youth, cooked in camp, and been 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 serve Veterans and also the community.

Reading the history of our unit and district is a motivating factor to continue to serve our Veterans and community with enthusiasm. Thank you for considering my candidacy for Department Historian.



SHAMROCK SUPPER HOSTED BY BERLIN AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

Story contributed by Allie Borland
Berlin Journal Newspapers

The O'Connor-Chiers American Legion Family hosted a traditional St. Patrick's Day dinner for the second year in a row. Proceeds from the event are going toward various projects, with the biggest being Veteran gravestone restorations.

The project is a partnership with the Berlin Veterans Foundation, Inc. and the Berlin VFW. It involves cleaning and restoring all Civil War markers in Oakwood Cemetery and other Veterans' headstones which have been flagged for cleaning. The restoration project will advance to include other cemeteries in the area.

These groups also sponsor activities such as

Berlin's American Legion baseball program, high school and eighth grade scholarships, the Badger Boys and Girls State programs, Camp American Legion, The Highground, and VA medical centers.

The Shamrock Supper brought together Veterans of all ages, service status, and experiences – each with their own stories to share. Not only did Veterans attend, but many other

community members did as well. The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary served Berlin school teachers, bankers, and other citizens. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming to all who participated, and the event was altogether spectacular.

Photos courtesy of Berlin Journal Newspapers.

SERVICE NOT IN SELF: IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

ALA MEMBERS FROM UNIT 106 SEYMOUR, UNIT 154 MONDOVI HELPED MAKE HOLIDAYS BRIGHTER



Members of ALA Unit 154 in Mondovi worked with community volunteers and representatives from the City of Mondovi, Buffalo County Sheriff's Office and Department of Human Services, Alliance Bank, and Mondovi School District for distribution of Christmas Wish Tree gifts to those experiencing hard times at the holidays.

Jeff Frenette, Retired WI State Patrol; Dave Shapiro, City of Mondovi Chief of Police; and Cindy Giese, Unit 154 Vice President and retired Wisconsin Department of Justice-DCI.



ABOVE: Lynn Cartier, Terri Carpenter and Debbie Court of ALA Unit 106 wrapped gifts for the Seymour High School clothes closet to aid students in need. Cindy Haak and Lynn Cartier organized the closet to make room for the new items.

BELOW LEFT: ALA Unit 106 raised \$500 at a fundraiser held at Seymour Dairy Queen to benefit Old Glory Honor Flights. Pictured: Unit President Juellaine Miller and Michelle Mueller, Dairy Queen Manager. BELOW RIGHT: The Our Kids Backpack Program provides weekend snack bags for over 200 students on the Seymour School campus each week. Debbie Court of Unit 106 presented gift cards to Kate Schaumberg for each recipient on behalf of the Auxiliary.



Mondovi American Legion Post 154 Finance Officer Randy Crank and Auxiliary members join community volunteers on the project's day of distribution.





Karl Stuvengen
Department
Commander

★★★★ DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ★★★★★

Ah, April and the dawn of Spring and rebirth. The Wisconsin winter is passing and soon we will be bewitched by the crack of the bat, and the beginning of another baseball season. Baseball and The American Legion have a long and storied history. With more than 3,400 teams and over 55,000 youth participating, this American phenomenon is gearing up for another summer of excitement, sportsmanship and life-long memories. With the addition of American Legion Softball, we have an exciting new way to further promote this storied program.

Addressing the 1925 South Dakota Department Convention, Big Ten Commissioner Maj. John L. Griffith stated, *The American Legion could well consider the advisability of assisting in the training of young Americans through our athletic games. Athletic competition teaches courage and respect for others, fostering their growth into active citizens.*

All of our Americanism programs are modeled after this premise. They pride themselves on teaching many of these life skills to our nation's youth. These values are as important today as they were in 1925, and our youth continue to look to us for the opportunity to learn. As with most American Legion programs, this starts at the local Post. Many of our Posts conduct one or more of these fundamental activities, and often see their candidates succeed at the higher levels

of these contests.

Sadly, some of our Posts no longer conduct Legion programs in the community. There are literally tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships left on the table every year because of this. The life skills taught through these programs are desperately needed by today's youth. We have the perfect vehicle to provide them. Does it require effort? Does it require an engaged membership? Yes, on both counts. Promoting these programs can often boost membership as well as visibility in the community. This is especially enticing to younger veterans. They want the same things for their children that we did. They want their children to learn about sportsmanship, respect for the flag, weapons safety, our Constitution and many other values. What a perfect opportunity to engage them in our programs and eventually recruit them into membership in our organization.

So, as we enter this season of re-birth, I urge you to consider starting or expanding one of the many Americanism programs we have available. Let those younger veterans provide you access to your local schools. Let them take the lead in promoting, coaching and running the programs. All you need to do is provide some guidance. Don't dwell on membership in the beginning. That will come as they discover what we have to offer.

Our nation's youth are calling. I urge you to step up, and answer that call.



Maggie Geiger
Department
President

PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE

What is the American Legion Auxiliary? What do you do? How do you become a member? How do we get into schools to share the Americanism Essay and Poppy Poster contests? How do we get the word out to our communities?

Do these questions sound all too familiar? These are some of the questions that Public Relations Chairman Bob Shappell and his committee have been addressing in the PR monthly Zoom chats on the last Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Join in whenever you can and participate for as long as your schedule allows, but don't be surprised if you stay on the entire time. This is an interactive meeting that will help give you ideas not only how to promote your unit in your community, but also how to promote your unit within your unit.

Yes, you read it correctly – promote your unit within your unit! We need to take the time to appreciate our own members, acknowledging them and their contributions that help make our units a success. Poppy calls, birthday cards, rides to and from a meeting, appreciation certificates for continuous years of service to name a few. Take time during your meetings to introduce new members, explain when your unit was chartered, read some of the minutes from unit meetings in years past. Spotlight one of the ALA programs – just a few minutes will help members understand better Who We Are and What We Do! These are some of the topics that have been discussed during the monthly PR Zoom chats.

Invite Legionaries, SAL and Legion Riders to attend these monthly PR chats as well. The entire Legion family needs to work together to help reach our communities so they understand we are there not only for veterans, military and their families, but also for our youth and our communities. Sign in individually or as a group to attend the monthly PR chats, there is a wealth of knowledge and new ideas.

If you have any questions, or would like a copy of past PR chats, contact PR chairman Bob Shappell at bobshap@aol.com.

Hope to see you on the next chat!



Allen Watry
SAL Detachment
Commander

★★★★ SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER ★★★★★

Happy Spring! Hopefully Winter has ended and we do not have to endure a late April/early May blizzard!

I would like to start this message with a shout-out to the Hartland Legion Family (294). They held another very successful Operation Homeless Veteran Event in February. I believe they have exceeded \$100K in monetary donations. They also received an overwhelming amount of durable goods

donated. OUTSTANDING JOB!

When I mention this successful event to others while traveling around the state, many times the discussion quickly turns to "How can we do something that big and successful?" There is a lot to unwrap with this question; I am not going to try to do that here. But I would suggest their success starts with having strong community visibility and engagement. I had the opportunity to spend 2 to 3 hours at their event. I was amazed at the continuous stream of individuals/local businesses stopping to make donations. The Hartland Legion Family is well known in the community, they are engaged in their community (year-round), and I believe that is a key to their success.

With spring here and summer around the corner, Legion Families will have many opportunities to deepen/strengthen their visibility, engagement, and involvement in their local communities. Very soon community parades, patriotic celebrations, and other community based events will be held. These are great opportunities for squadrons (as well as Posts, Units, and Rider Groups) to be visible and engaged. Can we, as an organization, have a positive impact and support our communities if we are not visible and engaged? My challenge to the Squadrons in Wisconsin is to be involved and engaged in your community activities this summer. My belief is this will create the strong foundation needed to have the positive impact needed in our communities.

Now to close, a couple quick business-related items. Squadrons, remember to submit your updated Squadron Data Information, even if there are no changes in location, dues, or officers. Also, remember Squadron Data Reports are due on May 31. Both forms are mandatory so please be proactive and submit these in a timely manner. They can be found in an electronic version on www.wisal.org, under the tab "Resources".

Thank you for all you do to support the Legion Mission.



Corey Doehrmann
State Director
American Legion
Riders Association

★★★★ LEGION RIDERS ★★★★★

The American Legion Riders are promoting a three-day motorcycle ride to raise funds for two great programs that support veterans. **The Wisconsin Legion Riders – Cruise for a Cause, 'Stu's Cruise – 24'** will be held on June 28 - 30, 2024.

The Wisconsin American Troop and Family Support Fund offers temporary assistance to active-duty members, qualifying veterans, and

their immediate families. This is a nonbudgeted restricted fund supported solely by grants and donations from both our members and the public.

The Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary Homeless Women Veterans Grant Fund provides a one time only assistance grant for Wisconsin female veterans who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. Funds are paid directly to the landlord, utility company or other vendor. The veteran is required to participate in a support program within or approved by the Federal or State VA system.

We need your help to make this a successful event, there are several ways to do this. First, you can donate by making a check out to "Stu's

Cruise-24". Checks can be presented at a stop or by mailing to P.O. Box 388, Portage, WI 53901. Secondly, you can share our sponsorship form with people/businesses to ask if they would be willing to support these two programs. Lastly, we would love to see you along the way or at one of the stops. We will be posting our exact planned route on our webpage in June. Plus, we will be making updates on our Facebook page (American Legion Riders Wisconsin) throughout each day of the ride. All of this information is available on our ride page by going to alrawis.org and clicking on **Cruise for a Cause 24** on the left-hand side of the page or by scanning the **QR code** at left.

The Legion Riders are promoting this event; however, it is truly a family affair. We will have Department Commander Karl Stuvengen, Department President Maggie Geiger and Detachment Commander Allen Watry riding with us as we travel through the state.

If you have any questions about the Wisconsin Legion Riders don't hesitate to contact me: Corey Doehrmann/State Director, cell 262-305-0305 or email at alrawi.director@gmail.com. Our next meeting after the publication of this will be May 4 at Post 54 in Marshfield, WI.



Don't forget to register for
The Legion Family Testimonial.

May 18, 2024

See page A1 for details
and registration information.