



BADGER



LEGIONNAIRE

& WISCONSIN VOL 99 #5 | OCT. 2022



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.

BE THE ONE

In the hustle and bustle of life, events and successes happen, memories and lasting impacts are made and we move on to the next task without hesitation. With Veterans Day weeks away, take a moment not to reflect, just on past service to our country, but also about what this Legion Family continues to do every day. Many times, these moments and interactions are fleeting or quiet, despite the strong impact made. These can't be tallied in a CPR or Mission Impact statement, but are what keeps the Legion Family driven and moving forward with the mission. The American Legion's "Be The One" is more than an attempt at reducing Veteran suicide rates. The Legion Family can BE THE ONE for those struggling with mental health, BE THE ONE for those that "seem" happy, BE THE ONE for those who are doing well now, but may need a "ONE" someday in the future. Those interactions that may seem small at the time, may be what a fellow Veteran remembers in a time of need.

The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin Service Office works year-round for Veterans. Due to privacy, so many impacts and successes live within the walls of the office. Every success is meaningful to the Service Office team. This year a 91-year-old Korean War Veteran with limited in-

come requested assistance from Legion WI's service office regarding his non-service-connected pension. After talking with the Veteran's family and completing a thorough case review, numerous errors were noted. The Veterans Service Representative assisted in filling out the needed forms to correct the issues, and after VA processed the updates/corrections, it allowed for a retroactive payment of over \$10,000 and an increase of the Veteran's pension to the VA's maximum rate. The claim clearly made a monetary impact on this Veteran, but the continued support shown by the VSO team made a personal impact as well. BE THE ONE

At Celebration of Freedom, a Vietnam Veteran stopped at one of the Legion WI tables and was voicing his frustration with the lack of history schools teach nowadays and he thought it was great that the schools were coming to the travelling WWII memorial and learning about that important piece of our history. Before long he was sharing his service story and I'm positive the conversation will be a core memory for all involved. He's now planning on speaking to a local elementary school for Veterans Day to share with students what his service means to him. BE THE ONE

One of the biggest supporters of Camp American Legion is the Wiscon-

sin Legion Riders. Every year during the Fall Ride weekend in September the Riders head to camp to show their support. Just like in years past, the Legion Riders gathered in Tomahawk and rode in to Camp together for check presentations. Afterward, the group returned to Tomahawk to the local post for a bit. Later that evening back at camp, there was a knock on the cabin door, "We lost a Rider." We lost a Rider. Little did they know that earlier in the day, while supporting Camp's mission to heal, they would be the ones looking for healing that night. The group spent the night around the campfire, talking about their brother. Sharing time and stories with each other allowed them to connect in a very powerful way. The Chaplain said a prayer that night and they began the healing process together. "I don't know how I would have held up that night if it weren't for being with other Riders." BE THE ONE

As you flip through the pages of this edition, you'll see a few changes. Look for your Department Leadership together on the back page and your Legion Family successes, stories and local events spread throughout the paper. Continue to BE THE ONE and make impacts that can't be reported on a form. Thank you for your past and continued service.




LUAU INTO THE KEYS-TO SUCCESS BANQUET

Wear your best Hawaiian Shirt and enjoy a Family Style Dinner with Entertainment by Daddy D Productions and Talent Show, the best Individual, Team or District will win \$50!

Pre-register by returning the registration form in this issue by January 1 and save \$5.00! Register online at wilegion.org



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
Jen Swenson

2022-23 Department Officers
Department Commander
Julie Muhle

Department Vice Commanders
Jeffery Zwiers
Karl Stuvengen
John Polzin
Harold Rihn

Department Adjutant
Nathan Gear

Department Chaplain
John Gessner

Sergeant-At-Arms
Jeremy Nordie
John Berg

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

District Commanders
1st - Nathan Bond
2nd - Jim Johnson
3rd - Jerry Hook
4th - Linda Pfeiffer
5th - Craig Ellis
6th - Gail Minks
7th - Phil Green
8th - Adam Klapperich
9th - Debbie Thomas
10th - Larry Larson
11th - Gerry Johnson
12th - Scott Markle

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

“Wisconsin”

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

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

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

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

BADGER BOYS STATE

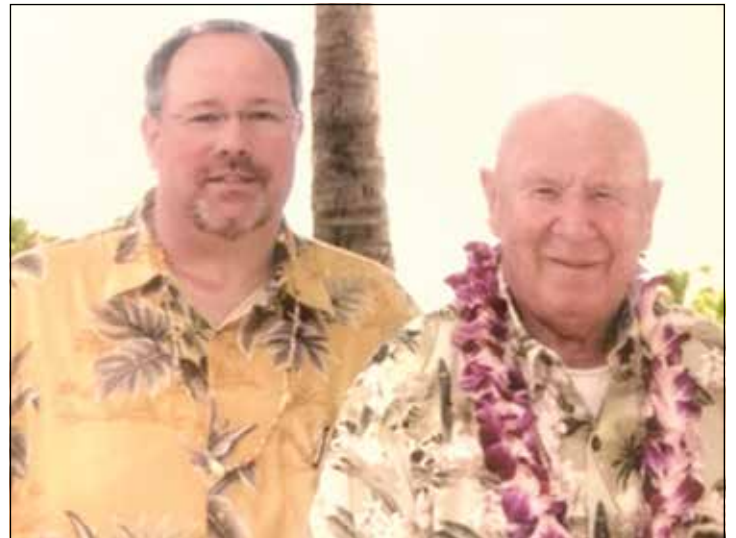
MEET PATRICK BRAATZ
BADGER BOYS STATE STAFF VOLUNTEER

By **Thomas A. Skrenes**

For over four decades Patrick Braatz has been a fixture on the staff of Badger Boys State. Patrick has been a leader in his community (youngest elected School Board Member in the history of the state of Wisconsin, a County Register of Deeds, Village Board of Trustees) and has served in Wisconsin and in Oregon governmental roles. He has been a member of numerous health care regulatory and professional associations. Today Patrick lives in Mesa, Arizona where he serves in the private sector, helping to administer a large dental practice. And each summer for 45 years Patrick Braatz has been on the staff of Wisconsin’s Badger Boys State.

When I asked, “How has your professional life been influenced by your BBS experience both as a citizen and a staff member?” He replied, “I campaigned to be selected to BBS in 1978 when I attended DC Everest High School in Schofield. I wanted to go because of the program’s reputation. It was a great

experience, and the years that I have been on staff, have taught me so many lessons. I learned how to deal with people from different walks of life, how to treat people, how to be respectful to one another and to love and respect my country and the many people who sacrificed their lives for us. I gained the ability to express different opinions, but not to make it personal.”



Patrick Braatz has been tapped to help lead Badger Boys State into the future.

and accept criticism of my ideas or opinions. The most important BBS takeaway is that I understand in life, work and in our society, you must compromise at some level, not to give up your basic principles, but to try some common ground from where you can start as you look to solve an issue or a problem. The experience made me want more to serve in the public sector.”

As he volunteers in the Boys State

program, Patrick Braatz remembers his father, a Legionnaire and Veteran of World War II. Dale G. Braatz enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served on the USS Saginaw Bay. He was active in the VFW and the American Legion until his death at age 86 in 2012. He was a member of the Roy L. Drew Post 492 in Rothschild Wisconsin where he served as Post Commander and was a Life Member of the American Legion.

STONE HEADS 2023 ORATORICAL CONTEST AT RIPON COLLEGE

My name is Robert Stone, and our Department Commander has asked that I serve as the program chair for the 2023 Oratorical Contest. My wife, Betty, PUFL in the Auxiliary, has agreed to co-chair the program.

We are very excited about this year’s program and work is well underway. The Oratorical Contest is a national public speaking contest for high school, grades 9-12, with large college scholarships, \$25,000 being awarded to the National contest winner, opportunities to travel at Legion expense to conferences and conventions, learn aspects of the U.S. Constitution, and the role of citizenship. Participation in this event is one that students can be proud to enter on their resumes and college entrance applications.

All of the program details can be obtained from the Legion’s National Website (legion.org/oratorical). The four assigned topics are also currently available and students can begin their research now.

The date and place of the 2023 department contests are set for the second Saturday in February at Ripon College.

In order to host a successful contest, we need some volunteer help. If you are already “one of the most important people in the whole wide world” please call Sheri at headquarters and affirm your willingness to help with the contest. If you would like to become one of these special people please call Sheri 608-745-1090 or email her at sheri@wilegion.org.

There are 12 Districts in our Department, which works well for 3 regional contests, the



Robert Stone will serve as the program chair for the 2023 Oratorical Contest. His wife, Betty, PUFL in the Auxiliary, has agreed to co-chair the program that is set for the second Saturday in February 2023 at Ripon College.

winners of each regional contest advance to the department finals contest. We need 12 contestants, 1 from each district. Have your post and county contests before Christmas. Then have your district contest in January and you will be ready for the department events in February.

Please note, as soon as you have a district winner, let Sheri know so we can set up the program for the department. Eligible Department contestants must be certified.

You can direct technical or general questions to me at 715-452-5329.



WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREER ACADEMY HOLDS 2022 CLASS

WALLECA was held this year from July 24 – 29 at the Wisconsin State Patrol training facility at Fort McCoy.

47 cadets completed the academy this year. The cadets had just completed their junior or senior year in high school. The cadets started their days with PT and then had classroom instruction from law enforcement professionals. The cadets had many hands-on opportunities such as firearms training, DAAT (Defense and Arrest tactics) and team building exercises which included a rock-climbing wall brought in from the Wisconsin National Guard. The academy ended with a graduation ceremony on July 29 with Wisconsin State Patrol Superintendent Tim Carnahan as the keynote speaker.

WALLECA thanks our sponsors



LEFT: The 2022 Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy graduating class. **RIGHT:** Course director American Legion District 2 Commander and Ozaukee County Sheriff John Johnson. *Photos by John Gessner*

Thank You Sponsors















for their support. WALLECA is funded completely by donations/sponsorships. If you are interested in donating to WALLECA, please

contact Sheri Hicks at Legion Headquarters. Her email is Sheri@wilegion.org or via telephone 608-745-1090.



AT LEFT: Superintendent of the Wisconsin State Patrol Timothy Carnahan delivered the keynote speech focusing on the character of a police officer. **ABOVE:** Cadets receiving their graduation certificate from Superintendent of the Wisconsin State Patrol Timothy Carnahan and course director John Johnson. *Photos by John Gessner*



Players hung on every word while Guest Speaker Terry Ryan took the podium sharing his knowledge and advice as a Major League GM and scout.



Nearly 250 guests attended the All-Star banquet in Milwaukee.

LEGION BASEBALL ALL-STAR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The 50th Anniversary of the Wisconsin Legion Baseball All-Star Game was held on August 7, with the banquet to celebrate the players held on the 6th. Hall of Fame Inductees for 2022 were Jeff Chew and the late



Dale Barry. This year's guest speaker was Terry Ryan, former MN Twins GM who played for Janesville Legion Baseball and finished his Legion career at the first All-Star game 50 years ago. When asked about travel baseball vs Legion Baseball, he could not say enough positive about Legion Baseball and the impact it made for him as a player. "I know what American Legion

Baseball does for people. I'm hanging around with friends to this day that I played Legion with back in '70, '71 and '72." Congratulations again to the 48 very talented players who participated this year and we wish you all the best in the future.

TOP RIGHT: Stars – Coached by Alex Heiny, Tom Papendorf and Chris Popp.

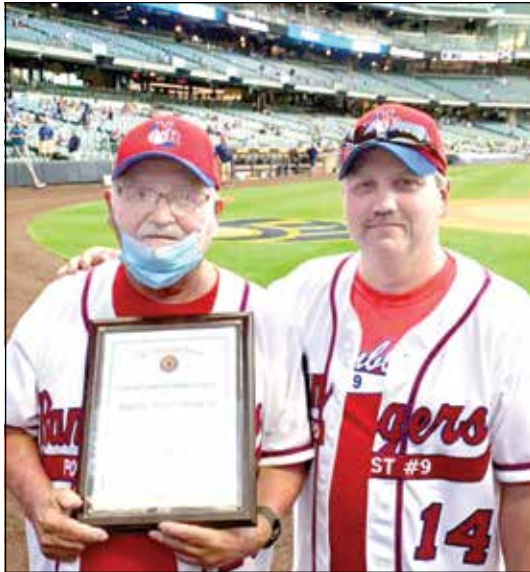
CENTER RIGHT: Stripes – Coached by Justin Lau, Tim McMahon and Bjorn Thompson.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Post banquet stories and camaraderie with Mr. Ryan.

BELOW: Guest Speaker Terry Ryan autographed baseballs for a few of the youngest attendees.



WISCONSIN RAPIDS LEGION BASEBALL



On August 30, Wisconsin Rapids Legion Baseball coach Tuffy Southworth received a certificate of appreciation for nearly 3 decades of service to Rapids Legion Baseball and threw out the first pitch at American Family Field that night.

WOODLAWN PARK HARTFORD AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL



At a Courtney-Carr-Milner Post 19 meeting in Woodlawn Park on July 7, Hartford Coach Austin Brewer had five members of the American Legion Baseball team present to thank Legionnaires for their support and give personal accounts of their experiences.

2023 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

JANUARY 12-15, 2023

RADISSON HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
2040 AIRPORT DRIVE ~ GREEN BAY, WI 54313

REGISTRATION FORM

Pre-register for The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin 2023 Midwinter Conference by returning this registration form and \$20.00 per person (1 person per registration form) to Department Headquarters by January 2, 2023 and **save \$5.00!** Registrations received after January 2, 2023 will be \$25.00 per person. Or register online at wilegion.org.

(Please type or print clearly in order for your badge to be printed correctly)

NAME _____ MEMBER ID # _____
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____
 ZIP _____ DISTRICT _____ POST _____ UNIT _____ SQUADRON _____
 EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

ITEM	NO	PRICE	TOTAL
Registration Fee		\$20.00	
Reg. Fee After 1/2/23		\$25.00	
LUAU INTO THE KEYS - TO SUCCESS <i>Wear your best Hawaiian Shirt and enjoy a Family Style Dinner with Entertainment by Daddy D Productions and Talent Show, the best Individual, Team or District will win \$50! ALL ARE WELCOME!</i>		\$40.00 <i>(RSVP By January 2, 2023)</i>	
Total Enclosed			

Make check payable to The American Legion, or Enter Credit Card Information Below

Cash Check # _____
OR

Name on Card _____ Card Type _____ Card # _____
Exp. Date _____ Sec. Code _____

Return to:
The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin
Attn: Midwinter
P.O. Box 388
Portage, WI 53901
or email to angela@wilegion.org

100% of the donations will be awarded to the project at Camp



2023 STATE RIDE

To benefit the interior renovation of the Recreation Building at Camp American Legion



CALL 608-745-0338
OR EMAIL
RIDERS@WILEGION.ORG
IF YOUR POST IS INTERESTED IN BECOMING A STOP ON THE 2023 ROUTE



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: Jen

50-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD



Zane Zander received a 50-year Membership award from Post 126 Commander Raphael Geiger.

PAST COMMANDERS CLUB MEMORIAL PROJECT

Bet you didn't know: This past year the Past Commanders Club undertook a project to update the appearance of the memorial brick project in front of The American Legion headquarters.

Besides laying recently purchased name bricks, we removed all bricks, underlaid those bricks with a foot of stone to facilitate the prevention of heaving due to Wisconsin weather and restructured the entire memorial.

Kudos to KES construction company, PCC members Bill Babb, Susan Knudson, and Rich Ruland for accomplishing this mighty task. In total we spent over \$5,000, accrued over 150 hours onsite, (not including 1,200 miles and 74 hours in travel) to accomplish the task.

The quiet reward was the camaraderie, and sense of accomplishment.

The Past Commanders Club wanted a project to advertise our existence. We rely on you posts awarding your commanders by virtue of a one-time only membership into the Past Commanders



Club. We are a social arm of The Department of Wisconsin whose sole purpose is to assist the Department in its ventures.

We are presently researching building a patio in the rear of headquarters for purposes of creating a gathering place for BBQs, and socializing following Spring & Fall meetings etc.

When you visit headquarters, take a few moments to view the memorial, look for friends and fellow Veterans among the bricks and reflect on all those from the past who just "Dared to Care."

Yours in fellowship,
Wayne "Swifty" Jensen
Finance Officer
Past Commanders Club

POST 316 GETS NEW SIGN



Sheldon York – Kolar American Legion Post 316 set up their new sign. The former sign was over 50 years old and in need of repainting. Sarah Wiacek repainted the sign and members installed the sign at the Veterans Park in Sheldon. Pictured with the sign are post members: Robert Stone, Ken Kochevar, Don Revak, Tom Cynor, Gene Wininger, Bernard Abbiehl, Jeff Hall, and Commander Rany Robinson.



POST 19 HOSTS BADGER GIRLS AND BOYS

Courtney-Carr-Milner Post 19 hosted Badger Girls and Boys on August 4 at a regular Legion meeting. The Hartford students talked about their experiences and part they played. Don Pridmore Americanism Chairperson Boys and Sally Wagner Chairperson of Badger Girls.



HARLEY GIFTED TO MOH RECIPIENT



Harley-Davidson presented a 2022 Tri Glide@Ultra Trike to Gary G. Wetzel, recipient of the Medal of Honor and South Milwaukee native, on September 11, 2022. "We are honored to award this bike to Gary Wetzel, a U.S. Army Veteran who served in the Vietnam War and received the Congressional Medal of Honor as a result of his actions in service." Robert Moakley, owner of Wisconsin Harley-Davidson.

PRESCOTT BAYENS POST 83 AT THE STATE BASEBALL TOURNEY



ABOVE: Prescott Bayens Post 83 Sheboygan Color Guard presented the colors at the opening ceremony of the American Legion Statewide Baseball Tournament. **AT LEFT:** Prescott Bayens Post 83 of Sheboygan presented a check for \$1000 to Ryan Salm, Administrator for the American Legion Baseball Tournament. From the left is Kenneth Wilhite, Adjutant; Randy Meyer, Post Commander; Ryan Salm; and Roger Marver, Member.



STRUNSEE-MUNSEE POW WOW



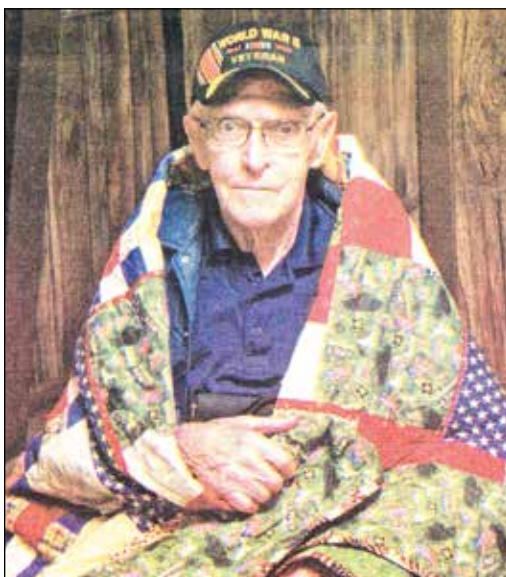
ABOVE: (L to R) Carol Sippel, Carol Johnson (Post CDR), Deb Thomas (9th District CDR), Mohican Princess 2022, Jolee Reinke, Jo Ann Schedler (Post Adjutant and Mohican Veteran) and Colleen Jordan. **BELOW:** Green Bay Madelyn LaCanne Post 539 participate in the Strunsee-Munsee Pow WOW as special guests of the Mohican Veterans Association.



GROUP MARKS VETERAN'S 104TH BIRTHDAY



Jo Ann Schedler, Carol Johnson and Julie Radosavljevic celebrate the 104th birthday of WWII Army Veteran Rose Kerstetter.



KATH RECOGNIZED FOR 71 YEARS OF SERVICE TO POST 358

Ninety-seven-year-old Otis Kath, of Loyal, has been a faithful member of the American Legion for the past 71 years. He is currently a Paid up in Full member and currently serves as Unity Post 358 Chaplain. Otis has served the Post and surrounding area in an outstanding manner. He has been involved in many of the Post activities, which include participating on the horseshoe team, funeral honors team, dart ball league, and working at our monthly pancake breakfasts, many times



frying up to 50-60 dozen eggs.

Otis served his country during WWII. He was a member of the 11th Airborne division, and served in the Pacific theater of operations. Along with the various other awards that he received, he was awarded two battle stars on his Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal for Luzan, and the Philippines. He was also stationed in Okinawa and Japan. In 1945 he arrived with the unit in Okinawa, awaiting the invasion of Japan, as the war ended.



Post 336 Purchases Hand Bike for Veteran

Onalaska American Legion Post 336 had the privilege of presenting Ryan S. Zimmer with a special hand cycle at Legion Night at the La Crosse Loggers. Ryan came to the post last fall looking for help in purchasing this very expensive bike. Ryan is an Army Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was deployed in 2003 and during that deployment the vehicle he was in was struck by

an IED. He was the only member of that vehicle to survive. Ryan was rescued by a passing Marine and if not for that intervention Ryan would not be with us today. Ryan looked for a way to enjoy some outdoor recreation after his injuries. Due to those injuries, Ryan has permanent damage to his legs and back. He sought the help of the VA. The VA was unable to help Ryan in his endeavor and after years

of searching for support, reached out to Post 336. After some discussion amongst the membership, it was decided to purchase the bike in full for Ryan to enjoy. It was an easy decision based on the foundation that this mission served the Pillars of the American Legion and the principles it was founded upon. Post 336 is humbled to help Ryan and Veterans like him who need help in their return from service, no matter the circumstances. We hope Ryan enjoys the cycle for years to come.



LEGION SOFTBALL

REGISTRATION OPENS October 15, 2022

A New Opportunity

Departments around the country are looking to Wisconsin as one of the first departments to offer Legion Softball. If your post hasn't reached out to local softball coaches or considered sponsoring a team, be sure to do so soon. Coaches are already planning for the spring season and Legion Softball 2023 registration begins on October 15, 2022. Wisconsin Legion Softball will uphold the same crucial values that are a part of existing American Legion youth programs: sportsmanship, character and values that follow players long after the game is complete. Get excited and be a part of this first Legion Softball season! Call Jen at HQ 608-745-0338 with any questions and watch the website below for updates and informational Q & A Zoom meeting dates and times.



wilegion.org/legion-softball

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PLUS

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



From Your American Legion Department



Travel confidently with EA+

DANE COUNTY LEGIONNAIRE SERVE AT 115TH FAMILY DAY



The Dane County American Legion Members from Marshall, Madison, Cross Plains and Middleton Posts who volunteered assisted with the 115th Family Day events cooking brats, serving food, cleaning up after cooking, monitoring the dunk tank, monitoring the kids' games, and taking pictures of the jets for families. The Auxiliary made 3000 cookies and also had another 29 volunteers at the Family Day event to assist. Submitted by Jerry Hook District Commander and the Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager at the 115th Fighter Wing. The Fighter Wing Commander thanked the American Legion Family for all the assistance while he was on stage making a short presentation.

SEVEN INDUCTED INTO ANAVICUS



Candace Rothering, Rebecca "Becky" Stankevitz, Jim Johnson, Jerry Laube, John Cumivek, Scott Markle, and Nathan Gear were inducted into the Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada, United States Unit, better known as ANAVICUS, on August 28, 2022 at the American Legion National Convention in Milwaukee. Chaplain, Rev. Robert Sweeney is in the background. A few select, distinguished Legionnaires don the colorful chapeau of ANAVICUS, an offshoot of a Canadian veterans organization. North American Veterans standing shoulder to shoulder!

FALLEN COMRADE TABLE DISPLAYED BY POST 114

This fallen or missing soldier table is a memorial in honor of fallen, missing or imprisoned Military Service personnel.

The table settings consist of the following symbols:

- A small table set for one, symbolizing the isolation of the absent service member. The table is usually set close to or within sight of the entrance to the dining room. For larger areas and events, the fallen man table may be set for six places representing each of the five Armed Services: Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard. With the 6th symbolizing the civilians who died during an armed conflict.
- The table is round to represent the everlasting concern the survivors have for the fallen.
- A white tablecloth to symbolize the pure intentions of the service members who responded to the country call to arms.
- A single red rose in a vase symbolizes the blood that the service member has shed in sacrifice to ensure the freedom of the United States of America. This rose also represents the family and friends who keep faith for their loss.
- The red ribbon represents a love of country that inspired the service member to serve.
- A slice of lemon on the bread plate that represents the bitter fate of the fallen.
- Salt sprinkled on the bread plate symbolizes the tears shed by family members. An inverted glass to represent the fact that the missing and fallen cannot partake.
- An empty chair to represent the absence of the fallen.
- A Bible may also be appropriate. One Nation under God.



Post 114 has placed a Fallen Comrade Table at our location as a memorial to those soldiers. It has been received with great appreciation and favorable comments.

★ CHAPLAIN'S CORNER ★

My message for this month is directed towards post chaplains. You folks are the tip of the spear, where the rubber meets the road so to speak. As with any military unit, directives come from above but the execution of those directives is at the unit, in this case, the post level. I've been your state chaplain and assistant for going on four years. What I have discovered is that at the national and district level, we often speak about what you can't do. But, what you can do as post chaplains is on the front lines. You meet with your post members on a regular basis. You know your people and they know you the best. You know who may be struggling and how they are struggling well before others do. You may be the one that they come to for counsel, support or prayer. In the area of prayer, many may be uncomfortable with prayer or maybe not know how to pray. What you can do is to be a valuable asset to your post members in this capacity. I would suggest regularly moving among your post members and stay in regular contact with them. Only then will they feel comfortable sharing with you. While they may comprise many different faiths, you have your own background and beliefs. In one-on-one conversations, it's okay to share your beliefs with another legionnaire as you are ministering to them. They are probably already aware of your faith. You, on the front lines, are living life with them and can be a great resource and comfort to them when they are in need. Rather than someone saying, "Here comes the chaplain; better straighten up" perhaps they will say, "Here comes the chaplain; join us in our celebration." Be available, be a friend, and be someone they can rely on for good counsel. Remember 1 Peter 3:15, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

In May 2023, we hope to have another chaplain's retreat at Camp American Legion, with double or triple our attendance from last year. Look for more information at the January Midwinter Conference. As we close out this year and enter another, my focus with you is communication. By the end of the summer, I hope to have a mailing list of chaplains in which we can share information and resources. Please drop an e-mail to jaggessner801@gmail.com and I'll have you added to the mailing list. Until we meet again, "May the Lord bless you and keep you. May he make his face to shine upon you and to be gracious unto you. May the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace, Amen."

*John Gessner
Department Chaplain*



Paul Fisk
Legislative
Chair

★★ LEGISLATIVE CHAIR ★★

It is less than a month until the Midterms, and each of us has a responsibility to take part. **We need to cast our vote on November 8.**

This election will determine who the Governor will be for the next 4 years. It will also determine who sets the legislative agenda for the next 2 years. The majority party in each house of the legislature sets the agenda. They

also control the committees as they have a majority on each committee.

After the election, the members of the incoming legislature will come to Madison for a caucus of each party and house. They will decide on their leaders for the next two years. They will also make their preferences for committee assignments known. Before the first of the year committee assignments will be made and chairs assigned by party leadership. The legislature is now ready to begin work after they are sworn in in January 2023.

The incoming legislature will be very different than the recent legislatures. Approximately 1/3 of the members will be new. Many members did not stand for reelection this cycle. It will take some time for this legislature to develop an identity. The various veteran service organizations will need to build relationships with the members and educate them as to who we are and our issues.

Overall, it is going to be an exciting legislative session.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

POST 116 AT VERNON COUNTY FAIR



Coon Valley Post 116 2nd Vice-Commander Richard Zube, L, and Coon Valley Post 116 Commander Wes Guy are shown manning the Vernon County Council American Legion information booth at the Vernon County Fair in Viroqua, Wisconsin in September. The Fair runs for four days, and all Legion Posts in Vernon County take turns manning the booth. The public registers for a free drawing and an American Flag is given away each day. Questions are answered and information is handed out about the programs of The American Legion and how to become a member.

A HAND-CARVED EAGLE WALKING STICK



The hand-carved eagle walking stick was presented at a recent meeting of Post 454.



RIO POST 208 HONORS VIETNAM ERA VETERANS

Rio Francis Cuff American Legion Post 208 on July 16 honored ten Vietnam Era Veterans and honored one surviving spouse at a ceremony at the Post building in Rio. Post 208 is a Partner in the national Vietnam War Commemoration program.

Shown are: Sitting – Dale Gajdosik, Vietnam 50th Post 208 Chairperson; Joanne Spalding, family member of John Frank; Joleen Frank, honored surviving spouse of John Frank; Deakin Donley, family member of John Frank; and Sandi Schneider, honored veteran. Standing – Terry Schraufnagel, Post 208 Commander; honored veterans David Lapacek, Robert Eilbes, James Durney, Bob White, Kenneth Grabarski, Eugene Noll, Dennis Schneider, Paul Seidlinger, and Terry Moore.

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION . . .

BUSY CAMP SEASON GIVES WAY TO WINTERIZATION



Jim Klement
Camp American
Legion Director

As we approach the winterization process for Camp, I am looking ahead to what fall, winter and spring will bring for Camp American Legion but would like to thank a couple of individuals from my staff.

If I had to summarize the past 5 months in one word it would be “busy”. We started off the year running. We doubled our occupancy from last year and never looked back. Camp could not operate if it wasn’t for the staff and volunteers. Without having our assistant cook position our head cook, Dawn, did an amazing job. Everyone left Camp bellies full and tired. Monica, our Volunteer and Recreation Coordinator went above and beyond. All our activities were expertly coordinated. She also added 50 percent new

volunteers this year which was great timing as we then lost our 2 McNaughton staff for the rest of the summer and needed more volunteers every week. Our office operations were handled by Jessica and we made vast improvements, operations seem to run seamlessly because of her work. I am already looking forward to next summer.

As most Legionnaires know, we are now open for all-season activities. We started off small with only a couple of events last year and we are expanding.

This will be the first year that Camp American Legion will be offering bow hunting opportunities to Veterans. Wounded Warrior United from Gleason, WI, will be bringing in Veterans on the first week of November to try their luck at taking a Northwoods buck. We received a \$1000 donation from Whitetails Unlimited and now we have

three ladder stands, trail cameras and hunting blinds that we will be utilizing at Camp.

We also have another opportunity with Wisconsin Hero Outdoors (WHO) for our 2nd annual ice fishing outing. The first was a great success due to the planning and the great staff at WHO. I am looking forward to this coming year working with WHO for all-season events.

Maple Syrup! Wow, did that ever go well last year. We made over ten gallons of syrup. I plan on expanding operations this coming spring and will need more volunteers to help with the tapping, gathering, boiling and bottling. So, if you are interested send Camp a message or give us a call.

Camp is always looking for new opportunities to serve our Veterans. Why not come along on the journey and either attend camp as a camper or sign up to volunteer?

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



“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

RITZY GLITZY IN MARSHFIELD



Marshfield Post 54 holds an event called the Ritzy Glitzy to raise funds for a new cabin in Camp American Legion. They serve a breakfast brunch that includes prime rib and shrimp. 250 tickets are sold for \$30 each and sales begin on a Monday and are sold out by Friday of that week. *Submitted by Mike Feirer.*



CAMP AMERICAN LEGION DONATION



District 11 Legion Rider President Jim Sprague presented a donation from the ride for peanuts to the Camp American Legion September 17, 2022.

AN HONOR FLIGHT ESCORT FROM DISTRICT 11 RIDER

District 11 Legion Rider Douglas Rasmussen helped walk the wife of Dale Meives, Honor Flight Veteran, down to the waiting area at the airport in Wausau for the return of the "Never Forgotten Honor Flight #41."



NEW COMMANDER INSTALLED AT SHIOCTON POST 512



At their August Post meeting, Department Vice Commander Jeff Zwiers installed Jennifer Gardner as the new commander of Shiocton Post 512. Jennifer is the daughter of Department President Linda Coppock.

103RD NATIONAL CONVENTION



District 11 was represented at the 103rd National American Legion convention by Douglas Rasmussen Phillips and then District Commander John Polzin, Medford.

POST 111 PRESENTS COLORS AT TWINS-BREWERS GAME



Somerset Post 111 honored all that have served with the flag raising ceremony at Target Field before a Minnesota Twins vs Milwaukee Brewers baseball game.



Nathan Gear
Department
Adjutant

★★★★ DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT ★★★★★

Hello Friends, Families, and Legionnaires,

THANK YOU to our Veterans and Families for your continued service and sacrifices.

Department is kicking off the 2022-2023 year strong with another summer of memories and impacts from all of our Legion Programs. Our participants reflect why we do what we do, making a difference in each of their lives. The organization could not complete our mission without the generous volunteers across the state and country.

Thank you, Legionnaires, at all levels of Post, County and Districts for engaging in community events, military ceremonies, traditions, fundraising and supporting our Legion Family at all levels. Great seeing the newsletters and social media posts from your activities.

Attention to Orders, we finally secured a new Membership Coordinator, please welcome, Dr. John Michels,

to the HQ's Team.

The FY23 National Membership Workshop said one of the biggest successes across all Posts were conducting your buddy checks and asking the Veteran what can the Post do to help them.

Consolidated Post Reports (CPR) 100% participation goal for 2023. We finished out 2022 at 82%, so we're going in the right direction. Leaders, please record your post's monthly activities. By reaching our goal we can truly report to the U.S. Congress the full impact we have on the lives of our Veterans, their families and communities across the Department. There is no reason we should not have 100% of Posts submitting CPRs by end of FY 2023.

Continue to visit wilegion.org website for upcoming events, manuals and reports for Posts and Districts, media kits, templates and much more. The Department HQ's Team wishes you a Safe and Happy Holiday Season and we hope to see you at Midwinter 2023 in Green Bay.

Stay vigilant.



PEWAUKEE POST 71 HOSTS 9/11 TRIBUTE



Pewaukee Post 71 hosted a 9/11 Tribute this September. Post 71's Honor Guard was present for the Tribute along with other Post members and guests.



POST 169 HONORS 77-YEAR MEMBER



David Ross Smith receives his 77-year member certificate from Larson Torgerson, Amery American Legion Post 169 from Commander Mark Starsky.



Mary M. Kolar
WDVA
Secretary

★★★★ **WDVA SECRETARY** ★★★★★

With Labor Day behind us, and the cool evenings of late summer taking hold, we take stock of what we've done these last months in service to our shared Veteran community.

I was honored to represent Governor Evers at The American Legion National Convention in Milwaukee at the end of August. I appreciated joining TAL Wisconsin leaders from throughout our state as Legionnaires from throughout the country learned more about the many benefits and services available to Wisconsin Veterans and their families.

On Saturday, September 3, I was excited to stand alongside American Legion State Commander Julie Muhle, along with VFW State Commander Michele Rathke, on the field at Camp Randall Stadium at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. We were presented with honorary game balls for the "Salute to Veterans" UW Badgers Football game versus Illinois State. It was a wonderful moment to celebrate the first time in Wisconsin the two largest veteran service organizations are all led by women. We also held a pregame tailgate event where it was great to see and talk with so many Veterans from all over our state.

We marked 21 years since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. We took time to remember the lives lost and the courage and strength of first responders. We pay tribute to the sacrifices made by the men and women who continue to defend our freedom by serving in the military since that fateful day.

As we head into Fall, I continue to be grateful for all the skilled care staff and professionals who work at our Veterans Homes in King, Chippewa Falls and Union Grove. We continue to increase our admissions as our staffing levels allow. We appear to be through the worst days of the pandemic, but we must continue to take precautions against the spread of COVID including getting vaccine boosters. As we move into flu season, to also help us keep one another healthy, please be sure to get your flu shot.

Along with you, I look forward to Veterans Day on Friday, November 11. We are formulating plans for what our celebrations will look like. We'll share the details of our Veterans Day tributes soon!

Wisconsin is an especially wonderful place to live this time of year. I encourage everyone to explore the beauty of Autumn in the Badger State by exploring our state's parks, trails and lakes while enjoying the changing colors of the trees!



Paul Fisk
Foundation
President

★ **AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION** ★

VETERANS BETTERING TOMORROW

Anonymous Donor Matches First \$50 Challenge

The Foundation was contacted by an exciting, generous donor who is challenging Legionnaires and the general public, alike, to raise funds for Legion Programs, by matching up to \$50 for the first 25 donors! Be sure to write "2022 Challenge" on your donation for the match.

Legion Programs, such as *American Legion Baseball and Softball, Badger Boys State, Camp American Legion, Jr Shooting Sports, Legion Riders, Oratorical, Scholarship, Sons of The American Legion, and Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy* serve Wisconsin Active Duty, Veterans, their families and communities.

LET'S BREAK THE BANK – CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!

Wisconsin American Legion Foundation
PO Box 827
Portage, WI 53901



John D. Michels
Membership
Coordinator

★★★★ **MEMBERSHIP** ★★★★★

I have just completed my initial week as your membership coordinator for the state of Wisconsin, and thank you to all of you who have phoned me or dropped in to welcome me. Everyone, and I mean *everyone*, has been so kind, but a trend I have noticed among many of you is that you cannot help but mention

to me that I am the one now in the hot seat. Everyone's definition of the hot seat may vary, but I am gathering that what all of you have in common who use that metaphor is that this position is not going to be easy. I can see that already, but just knowing that I have your support is helping me get off the ground and catapulting myself off the hot seat from time to time.

Please know that I am here for you and that once I am more settled in I will return the thirty-three phone messages I have waiting for me. In the meantime, processing renewals and weekly reports is my priority. Today I mailed off all the membership refunds to those deserving Posts and the experience took me back to when I was eighteen years old and stuffing letters for a presidential candidate.

I was heartened by our most recent membership report that showed we were above our 50% goal in renewals and overall membership. And those transmittal reports just keep coming in. I think I may have to procure more than one inbox. My current one is flooding with your commitment to the work of the Legion. I am proud to be a part of the team here at headquarters, and I look forward to our conversations and finding ways to help all of you. Let's keep doing great things!



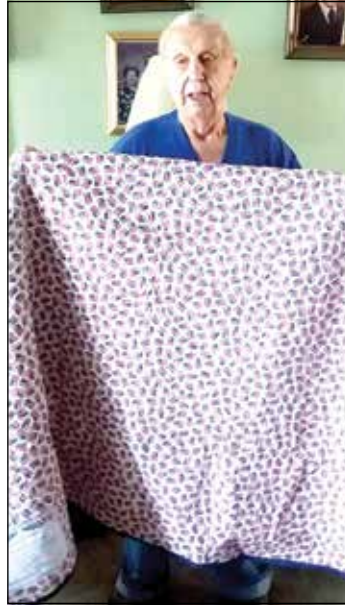
Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

TWO QUILTS OF VALOR AWARDED IN FOOTVILLE BY POST 237



Two members of the Devins Teehan McGuire Post 237 in Footville were honored on June 25, 2022 with the presentation of beautiful handmade quilts in association with the local chapter of "Quilts of Valor" during the Patriot Days Celebration in Rock County. ABOVE: John McGuire is a 68-year member of Post 237. AT RIGHT: Carl (Jerry) Johnson is a 36-year member of Post 237.



★★★ VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER ★★★

THE PACT ACT MARKS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF VA BENEFITS IN 30 YEARS

The official name "Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022" was named in honor of Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson, a decorated combat Veteran who died from a rare form of lung cancer, leaving his wife Danielle and their six-year-old daughter Brielle behind.

The PACT Act will help deliver more timely benefits and services to an estimated five million Veterans who may have been impacted by toxic exposures while serving our country.

The law was written with a plan to phase in these benefits between this October and October of 2026.

At The American Legion National Convention, we were told the Secretary of Veterans Affairs stated the VA is going to adjudicate all items as soon as possible with no phase-in dates. Let us hope this is correct. Now for the technical information.

The law expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for certain Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras. If you have been denied access to VA health care, you may now qualify. The VA is encouraging applications.

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

It adds new or extends presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposure for GWOT Veterans. These new presumptive conditions are Brain cancer, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Glioblastoma, Head cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Lymphatic cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Melanoma, Neck cancer of any type, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type, Asthma that was diagnosed after service, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Chronic rhinitis, Chronic

sinusitis, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis, Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, and Sarcoidosis.

The law adds presumptive-exposure locations for herbicide (Agent Orange) exposure. New presumptive areas now include any United States or Royal Thai base in Thailand from January 9, 1962, to June 30, 1976, Laos from December 1, 1965, to September 30, 1969, Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969, to April 30, 1969, in Guam or American Samoa, or in the territorial waters thereof, from January 9, 1962, to July 31, 1980, and on Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972, to September 30, 1977.

It adds new presumptive conditions for herbicide (Agent Orange) exposure. These new presumptive conditions are Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance and Hypertension.

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

The law adds studies and oversight reports for several items. Here are a few of interest:

VA health care enrollment and usage, VA compensation claims data to include the number approved and denied, epidemiological study on the health trends of veterans who served at Fort McClellan at any time from 1935 to May 20, 1999, and a biennial briefing on individual longitudinal exposure record to identify potential exposures to occupational or environmental hazards

The law also allows court action to obtain appropriate relief for harm that was caused by exposure to the toxic water at Camp Lejeune. You have seen the commercials; this is the reason why.



POST 44 LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR



Al Heisler
2022 Post 44 Legionnaire of the Year

The American Legion Sylvan Post 44 in Wabeno announces Legionnaire of the year for 2022. Al Heisler has been named the Legionnaire of the year for 2022. Jeff Ewers, American Legion Commander for the 9th district of Wisconsin, presented Al with this prestigious honor. Al is an Army Veteran and served in Vietnam. He has been a member of Post 44 for 41 years. His dedication to serving Veterans, their families, and the community has always been a priority for Al.

Al has served as Commander for 4 1/2 years and Chaplain for 8 years. He's also been a board member and represents Post 44 by attending many conferences. Even after serving as an officer for many years, Al gives guidance and direction to his comrades to help them improve. His commitment to the Legion and Post 44 continues by being on the Honor Guard. He also volunteers countless hours in many of the Post's fundraisers.

Al also loves spending time with his family. His grandchildren are his pride and joy. He enjoys watching the Packers win and western films.

PRICE COUNTY RODEO

Post 122 Phillips was asked to post the colors for the Price County Rodeo.



THE HIGHGROUNDS VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK



District 11 American Legion Riders delivered a donation to The Highgrounds Veterans Memorial Park in Neillsville, WI on July 30.

The Last Bugle



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

1 Germantown	36 West Bend
Ken Kroeker V	Jacob Hansen V
Terry Libby V	Brian McDonald V
James Roberts G/L	38 Appleton
Lee Schuldt V	Gerald Helf K
3 Antigo	Lyle Steward K
Richard McConnell V	39 Marinette
Kenneth Biagioni K	Greg Dougovito PG
John Boudry K	Richard Liederbach WWII
John Suick K	Albert Ewaldt V
Michael Wiley V	43 Ripon
6 Stevens Point	Glen Crook K
Kevin Cole V	44 Wabeno
Paul Kiegl K	Ralph Fritsch V
Eugene Waltenberg V	Paul Dallman V
Milo Harpstead K	45 Elkorn
8 Waukesha	Joseph Godina G/L
Leland Melville WWII	46 Merrill
Robert Kraklow V	Roy Lange K
9 Wisconsin Rapids	47 Portage
John Carrigan K	Donald Salzman K
Maurice Petta WWII	Larry Schultz V
10 Wausau	Robert Manske PG
Richard Jesse K	William Tierney V
James Garrity V	Kenneth McGwin V
John Wesolowski V	48 Beloit
11 Green Bay	John Skelly K
Frank Kraft K	Ronald Gabrielson WWII
Milton Steeno WWII	49 Bayfield
Eugene Crass K	Herman Sense K
Harlan Riste K	51 West Salem
Gerald Tease WWII	Jerald Martin V
15 Juneau	Bert Jenks V
James Stanton V	John Schmidt V
16 Cudahy	52 La Crosse
Arthur Johnson WWII	Calvin Grabhorn K
Allan Zwoniarikiewicz V	Ronald Asfoor V
Victor Lahr K	Ronald Rogers V
Peter Laskoski K	53 Eau Claire
Richard Bennett K	James Stokes V
17 Arcadia	Ralph Miller K
Donovan Berzinski V	Robert Harriman WWII
Albert Woychik K	Dr. Thorsbakken K
Leroy Woychik K	54 Marshfield
Howard Reedy WWII	Inwin Johnson WWII
Richard Glowcheski V	David Juncer V
Eugene Gunderson K	David Schlaghaft V
22 Amherst	Howard Grob V
Leon Ryzczek WWII	55 Hortonville
26 Baraboo	William Martin V
Roger Schluter K	Clark Hribal G/L
Melvin Wagner V	Larry Mossholder V
Harold Christensen WWII	58 Hurley
29 Kewaunee	Lee Baron K
John Wallace G/L	Wendell Eilo G/L
33 Neenah	Tom Sands V
Marvin Anklam V	59 Stoughton
	Thomas Jenny V

60 Kimberly	Lawrence Walbrun K
	William Coon V
62 Columbus	Tom Ajer V
64 Ladysmith	Larry Miller V
	Raymond Cicha K
68 Prairie du Chien	Donald Osterhaus K
	Lyle Blank K
69 Mayville	Paul Kurutz K
	James Miley K
	Daryl Bartsch V
	David Herman V
	Earl Mester V
	Gerd Bartmann WWII
70 Oshkosh	Paul Kovalaske K
	John Supple K
	John Swanson G/L
	Frank Hernandez V
71 Pewaukee	Woodrow Badger K
	74 Oconto
	Elwood Bengry V
	Richard Doeren V
	Russell Nelsen V
	Vernon Warrichaiet V
77 Chippewa Falls	Robert Verbrugge K
	79 Burlington
	Harry Beliuas V
	Glenn Braunschweig K
81 Mauston	Cletis Pangle K
	82 Port Washington
	Glenn Meerdink K
	Gary Jansen G/L
83 Sheboygan	Walter Weimann K
	Larry Schultz V
84 Monroe	Vincent Walmer V
	88 Manitowoc
	Glen Deisinger V
	Richard Rexrode K
	James Konop K
89 Minocqua	Paul Fuhrman K
	Hollis Johnson V
90 Ashland	Ervin Meister K
	Andrew Nelis PG
	Dwight Ames V
91 Oconomowoc	Donald Lippiatt K
	Roland Rosch V
	Robert Kobza V
	Howard Wetzel V
	Juan Bamba V
	Patrick Keating V
	Roy Adkins WWII
95 Delavan	Joseph Moran WWII
	96 Webster
	Michael Whiteside V
100 Sparta	Gerald Dewitt V
	Henry Chenoweth WWII
102 Walworth	Robert Stevenson K
	Bruce Beckway K
104 Cuba City	David Paeske V
	Charles Thies V
106 Seymour	
108 Clear Lake	Douglas Kruger K

109 Lancaster	John Hughes V
	John Brandemuehl V
	David Bainbridge V
	Perry Ahnen V
114 Eagle River	Michael Downar PG
	James Kopanski V
116 Coon Valley	Richard Reget K
	117 Shawano
	Junior Jahnke K
118 Thorp	Richard Turenne WWII
	121 River Falls
	Robert Peterson V
	Gerald Emholtz K
124 New Holstein	Du Wayne Buelow K
	Donald Eickert K
	Ambrose Lisowe K
125 Chilton	Arthur Hugo WWII
130 Sharon	Raymond Lowry K
	136 Niagara
	Francis Sherman V
	John Butler K
	Dennis Chartier V
	George Maciosek K
	Kenneth Ven Rooy V
	Thomas Seiler V
151 Madison	Donald White V
	153 Pittsville
	Roger Bushman K
	Gary Skon V
	Robert Leigh G/L
154 Mondovi	Rod Geraghty V
	Vernon McDonough WWII
157 Horicon	Bill Schreiner K
	Lloyd Wagener K
158 Maiden Rock	David Olson V
	Robert Taylor V
	Douglas Lansing V
	Steven Olson V
160 Brooklyn	Ervin Meister K
	John Manasterski K

164 Jefferson	Harlan Dorn K
	165 Two Rivers
	Walter Christoffel V
	166 Fort Atkinson
	Alan Woodard V
168 Glenwood City	Ralph Kerr V
	Jon Erickson V
179 Chetek	Charles Cortte V
	Stephen Herbst K
180 Milwaukee	Vincent Linehan V
	182 Park Falls
	George Deringer WWII
185 Grantsburg	Gerald Robbins K
	Kurt Kaspar K
186 Independence	Richard Halama V
	191 Whitehall
	James Bendelbach K
196 Delafield	Herbert Ilgen K
	198 Marion
	Robert Sprenger V
200 Black River Falls	John Schick WWII
	Frederic Stai V
	Floyd Vogt V
	William Stenulson V
	Edward Nemeec V
	Rebecca Bjerke-Ayers PG
	Emil Jelinek WWII
201 Tomah	Adam Shultz V
	204 Ellsworth
	Jerome Brickner K
205 Janesville	Stanley Mulrooney WWII
	John Chrobak V
	Tim Bechtol V
206 Wonewoc	Jesse Cox K
	Sharon Coleman V
208 Rio	Vernon Wavra WWII
	214 Darlington
	Joseph Ohnstad V
	Harold Douglas K
	Thomas Johns V
220 Soldiers Grove	William Banta WWII
	William Turmire V
223 Hillsboro	Roger Chalupecky V
	230 De Pere
	Robert Phillips P

231 Blair	Howard Turk K
240 Baldwin	Glenn Boumeester K
	George Birkett V
	Ronald Phernetton V
	Donald Lind WWII
243 Plymouth	James Langemak K
	245 Cross Plains
	Nathan Geraths V
246 Genoa	Frank Jambois K
	247 Glidden
	George Deringer WWII
248 Cottage Grove	Gerald Robbins K
	Kurt Kaspar K
251 Argyle	Robert Bonjour V
	Philip Marklein K
	William Fleischauer V
254 Milltown	Gunnar Nielsen WWII
255 Luck	Tammany Howie V
	261 Greenbush
	Richard Loehr V
262 Luxemburg	Marvin Mercier K
	263 New London
	Robert Spencer K
271 Poynette	Marti Edwards PG
	Richard Aeschbach V
274 Rib Lake	William Bleck V
	280 Coleman
	Melvin Brault WWII
282 Markesan	Dale Schermerhorn K
	283 Suring
	Edgar Jaeger K
284 Holmen	Peter Tabor K
	Richard Granum K
	Charles Paulson K
287 Mattoon	Donald Fuller K
	288 Cedarburg
	Lee Bardwell K
290 Benton	Leo Scanlan V
	294 Hartland
	Ronald Patterson V

295 Bloomer	John Paulus V
	Wayne Knipfer V
301 Woodville	Wayne Looock V
	Lyle Gunderson V
	Robert Larson K
302 Oconto Falls	Terris Umentum V
	305 Johnson Creek
	Rick Schaller V
306 Green Lake	David Richter V
	310 Racine
	Marvin Bohman K
	David Schultz K
312 Peshtigo	Richard Anderson V
	314 Boyceville
	Ted Bissell V
316 Sheldon	Norman Mudgett V
	Adeline Hedtke V
322 Babcock	Harry Gehrt V
	329 Briggsville
	John Johnston K
333 Sun Prairie	Robert Sutton K
	336 Onalaska
	John Langen V
	David Solie WWII
	Robert Keil V
	Arnold Holtzhaus K
343 Hancock	Milan Dornik K
	Ronald Seleneske V
348 DeForest	LeRoy Huismann WWII
	Gloria Roohr-Hyzer V
351 Montello	Edwin Stelter V
	Irving Nicolai WWII
356 Muskego	Ronald Nelson V
	John Mooney V
358 Unity	Jerry Loughhead V
	Fred Kerkisiek K
361 Wilmot	Timothy Brown V
	Allen Hallberg V
	Ronald Shottiff K
427 Milwaukee	Doyle Brugman WWII
	Gary Sexson V
	Ronald Vanmaldegiam K

Harold Vassau K	363 Denmark
Harold Ney K	Robert Kaster K
366 Princeton	Wayne Looock V
Thomas Vanzeeland	Bernard Myers V
375 Mukwonago	Donald Foth K
	378 Brandon-Fairwater
	Henry Vandezande K
	Wayne Tavs K
	Donald Doherty V
382 Menomonee Falls	Robert Schorr K
	Thomas Dueppen V
	Ronald Wesloski V
390 Gresham	William Gleason V
	391 Fremont
	Raymond Koepf WWII
	James Wohlt V
	Louis Vercellotti K
396 Indian Creek	Jack Hinton V
	401 Cambria
	Charles Dykstra K
402 Washington Island	Rajesh Patel PG
	Richard Walker V
	403 Webb Lake
	William Macmillan V
405 Dousman	James Naves WWII
	410 Fredonia
	Alan Bruhn K
416 Greendale	Clayton Beutin K
	Gilbert Bleck K
	Martin Linskey K
	Melvin Leppien K
	Joseph Shircel G/L
417 St. Nazianz	Carl Lassa V
	Jerome Laudoff V
418 St. Cloud	Jerome Laudoff V
	Larry Cain V
423 Barneveld	Joel Green V
	Richard Mlynczak K
	Timothy Brown V
	Jerome Swendrowski K
	427 Milwaukee
	Doyle Brugman WWII
	Alois Kirschbaum K
	433 Allenton
	Jack Murphy V

Jeffrey Olson V	434 Oak Creek
Robert Brunt K	Alexander Haidarian K
436 Wrightstown	Richard Helf V
	Kenneth Brosig V
437 Mazomanie	Gerald Garvoille V
	Edwin Schroeder WWII
438 Norwalk	Wallace Engel V
	Richard Ganswindt K
	Francis Andres V
	Larry Kloza V
442 Wisconsin Rapids	Robert Granger K
	Oscar Karcher K
449 Brookfield	Jack Hinton V
	452 Spirit
	Joe Johnson V
	458 Wauzeka
	Robert Lenz K
	Gary Smith V
465 Minong	Richard Schmutzer V
	469 Marathon
	Gerald Feldbruegge K
468 Milladore	Anthony Kuklinski V
	Joseph Rozmarynowski K
477 St. Nazianz	Al Swientek WWII
	David Kramer V
478 St. Cloud	Joseph Shircel G/L
	Carl Lassa V
479 Milwaukee	Jerome Laudoff V
	Larry Cain V
480 Presque Isle	Joel Green V
	481 Madison
	William Gilfooy V
	482 Bagley
	Kim Ready G/L
	Alois Kirschbaum K
	483 Allenton
	Kenneth Habeck V

Peter Strupp K	487 Cable
Richard Bergum V	Richard Bigoness K
488 New Berlin	John Langmesser K
	492 Rothschild
	Jerome Rader K
494 Caledonia	James Prochaska V
	Steven Thompson V
	James Dombrowski K
499 Gordon	George Rogers WWII
	Leonard Peterson K
501 Madison	James Lawlor PG
	Raymond Michaels V
503 Dane	Mike Goeden V
	506 Iron River
	Richard Petersen V
508 Wilton	Curtis Brieske V
	509 Rosholt
	Jack Brooks V
519 Stetsonville	William Krug K
	Norbert Weiler V
520 Vesper	Thomas Worlund PG
	523 Abrams
	Thomas Betts K
	Lee Dufek V
527 Sister Bay	Joseph Shepherd K
	534 McFarland
	James Deneen V
537 Milwaukee	Lawrence Fenske K
	Harold Stage V
	Robert Sura V
539 Green Bay	Clayton Meyer K
	June Linsmeyer K
550 Brackett	Gerd Golly V
	2930 Portage
	Donald Weber V
	Allan Kuhlman K
	David Meyers V
	Burton Altman K
	Don Martin V
	Joseph Hoover V



2023 ALA DAILY SWEEPSTAKES

2023 Daily Sweepstakes entry forms have been mailed. If you want additional entry forms, please call department headquarters. Only original entry forms will be accepted.

Daily prizes are \$15. Sunday prizes are \$25. One \$500 prize each month.

The last day to enter is December 31, 2022. Official sweepstakes rules are posted on the department website.

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

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ALREADY RESPONDED.



MEMBERSHIP

Becky Mueller
Department Chair
clarenceandbecky@aol.com
920-833-6048

I am so EXCITED! YOU are awesome. Memberships are flowing into department. We have officers stepping up and paying their dues in a timely manner as an example to the rest of us. We have new members being recruited. Our GNOME pins are traveling all over the state. Keep up the excellent work.

Continue to turn in your renewals – let’s get them all in before Christmas. I BELIEVE we can do this – then we can all concentrate on our mission by working our programs and projects. We are so important to our Veteran and military families. We need to continue providing support and encouragement to them.

Do not forget to focus on getting former

members who have fallen by the wayside or left because of something we as members did to discourage them from remaining part of our family. Or it was something we didn’t do to make them feel welcome and/or needed by us? Now is the time to make amends. Reach out to them. We know they are eligible for membership – they were prior members. They once found something that inspired them to become members – let’s inspire them again! Maybe the timing wasn’t right – schedules change, circumstances change – but we were important to them in the past. Renew that contact – invite them to events – let them know that they are part of our mission field whether they are a member or not. What can we do to make their experience with the Legion Family better and beneficial to them? Ask these questions, listen to the answers, and then act appropriately.

We are more important than ever – the needs

of our Veterans, military, their (our) families, and communities are ever-changing and evolving but the need for what we provide in the ways of support and service have not changed! Let us honor our WHY as we continue to show WHO we are and WHAT we do that matters so much to others.

As the season changes into fall, let’s harvest those members – send in their membership renewals, encourage those past members to come back to the family, and look for those new members seeking a place to belong and serve.

BELIEVE!

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please contact your membership team members. Department Committee: Becky Mueller; Mary-Ellen Crandall; Donna Bellettiere; Barbara McDaniel; Andrea Stoltz, Department Program Coordinator; your District Presidents and Membership Chairmen; or any Department Officer. We are in the Red Book.

2022 Membership Rankings

DISTRICT	GOAL %
District 3	30.22%
District 2	28.35%
District 4	27.96%
District 9	26.54%
District 7	24.51%
District 6	23.79%
District 5	20.78%
District 1	19.53%
District 10	18.35%
District 8	17.64%
District 12	16.57%
District 11	11.89%

VA & R — HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS

Pat Smith
Department Chair
pms112ws@gmail.com
608-786-4441

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE – Each of us are approached daily for contributions to any number of causes. The never-ending robo-calls are equally frustrating. It is irritating as well as just plain rude when callers do not even speak to you. Maybe it is time to get back to basics and things you understand and believe in. Do you remember the reason(s) you became an American Legion Auxiliary member? Of course, you do. Your membership honors a Veteran(s) within your family – men and women who served in our American military services to stand for this country and to protect and provide for us.

Sometime ago we heard the horror stories of women veterans living in their vehicles with their children; afraid to go to a Veterans’ hospital for fear of losing their children; alone and desperate. That is changing. The biggest problem facing women Veterans today seems to be issues related with COVID or health issues. The issues can be the loss of income, threat of eviction, the cost or need for medical attention, the upheaval of divorce or separation, or even abuse.

Perhaps one of the most difficult things a person can do is to realize they must reach out for help. That woman who proudly accepted her duty as part of our military forces must now swallow that pride and look for help. This is where you as a member of the American Legion Auxiliary can make a difference. Invite your county veterans service officer (CVSO) to speak at your unit meeting. Ask the CVSO what your unit can do. Keep track of what your unit does in this effort; whether you make donations to the CVSO’s emergency fund or give gas cards. Sponsor or help at a job fair or stand down.

Celebrate unit members’ birthdays by collecting or donating money to the Homeless Women Veterans Grant Fund. That adds up! Have fun and do your own thing. Obviously, the easiest thing is to just donate to the grant fund. Your donations are greatly appreciated and most importantly, you can have that feel good moment knowing that every penny of your donation helps a woman Veteran. When a woman Veteran needs help, we want to be there with a hand reaching out in support.

UNIT 477 AWARD RECIPIENTS AT STATE CONVENTION



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 477 Saint Nazianz received many awards at Department Convention: Award of Excellence for Membership Achievements, Membership “Revere Award,” and the Department President’s Award for Excellence. Included in this photo are Dean Augustine, Commander Post #477; Roberta Posvic, Manitowoc County President; Diane Steinert, 6th District President; and members of Unit 477.

Poppy Reminder

**ORDER DEADLINE:
DECEMBER 15**

Poppies can be distributed all year long.
Veterans Day is a great time to do a distribution.

Don’t Delay – Order Today!



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Linda Kostka
 Department Chaplain
 lkostka@ymail.com
 715-209-8135

*Psalm 86:7 — In the day of my troubles
 I will call you, for you will answer me.*

As we look back in our histories, we had many gods. Native Americans had the four winds and every structured religion had various bibles that supported their faith. They wanted the freedom to worship as they believed. And therefore, we became a Nation of Faith.

Our forefathers found religion so important they put it into the First Amendment to the Constitution: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." And so, our American Legion Family's preambles start with, "For God and Country." We should pray often, as we are a country of freedom to worship as we choose without exception.

Prayer: Lord, I humbly come to pray and seek your guidance with the upcoming election. Forgive us for the wickedness and evilness around us and in us, please clean our bodies and souls. Search our hearts and remove our indiscretions. I humbly ask for your guidance during these troubling times. Amen, Amen

Hymn: Faith of our fathers, holy faith.
 We will be true to thee till death.



Wisconsin's cheesy volunteers made for a successful National Convention. Visitors from other states often commented on how gouda job they did and we know they had a hole lot of fun! Way to make Wisconsin proud!

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

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

The 2022 American Legion Auxiliary National Convention was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A special thanks to Convention Chair Amy Luft/co-chair Maggie Geiger, Pages Chair Sandy Mack/co-chair Shirley Krier, Flowers Chair Linda Kostka/co-chair Darcy Kostka, Mail Room Chair Christine Johnsen/co-chair Morgan Johnsen, National President's Driver Donna Jensen, and the dozens of dedicated ALA members who volunteered throughout the weeklong event to ensure it was a success!

Wisconsin received several awards at the convention, including a National President's Award for Excellence to Marie Tabat, Community Service Chair for Unit 434 in Oak Creek! Unit 434 was recognized for promoting the American Legion Family's involvement in community events throughout the year. Rumor is that members of the unit were disappointed they had not been recognized previously for all their hard work, but they were told that the unit couldn't be recognized if they didn't report their activities. Well...Marie reported...and the results speak for themselves! Congratulations, Marie Tabat and the members of Oak Creek Unit 434!!! Keep up the great work.

Diane Weggen also received Honorable Mention for the National President's Award for Excellence on behalf of the Department of Wisconsin in recognition of projects done to support those who care for others. See the complete awards listing on page A5 for details of other achievements won by Wisconsin units/members.

Vickie Koutz of Indiana was elected National President for 2022-2023. Her focus for the year is to honor our Veterans every day and her special project is supporting the companions of National Veterans Creative Arts Festival participants. Read more about Vickie



Working the ALA mission, and the caring demonstrated by unit members throughout the Department of Wisconsin, resulted in the Department receiving one of three 2022 National President's Awards for Excellence. Thank you, members, for giving me the privilege of being your president to receive the Honorable Mention at National Convention on your behalf. — Diane Weggen

Koutz on page A5.

The National President will be conducting her official visit during The American Legion Midwinter Conference in Green Bay, from January 12-15, 2023. The ALA will be conducting a training session on Saturday, January 14 and a fun luau event is planned for Saturday evening so mark your calendars to gather with the Legion Family and meet the National President. Watch for details in the unit mailing and on the department website.

National Headquarters mailed the 2023 membership renewal notices in mid-September. You may have received a renewal notice even though you recently paid your dues. National pulled the mailing list in early August so things may have crossed in the mail. If you

believe you received a notice in error, please contact your unit membership chairman to confirm your dues were forwarded to department headquarters for processing.

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

Thanks to everyone who already renewed their 2023 dues. Together, I BELIEVE American Legion Auxiliary members make a difference in the lives of our Veterans, the military, and their families.



President Linda Coppock presented Marie Tabat of Oak Creek Unit 434 the National President's Award for Excellence that was received at National Convention. Congratulations, Marie on an award-winning report!

LEADERSHIP

Joyce Endres
Department Chair
ljendres@charter.net
608-221-1763

"If your actions create a legacy that inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader." ~ Dolly Parton

Start with a positive attitude to inspire others to serve alongside you. When you accept a program chairmanship or office at any level, look for a mentor to help you. Work with a team of people with different skill sets to serve with you and learn, improve and strive to make a bigger difference. **Teamwork** makes things happen with a strong positive impact.

Life happens! If for some reason you cannot fulfill an obligation, contact the president to explain your situation. Members will step up to help you accomplish what you set out to do.

Leadership, communication and trust are important to serving together, as a team. As a unit, committee, or American Legion Family team, the following tips help us be better leaders:

- Share your knowledge, ideas, and experiences to help others achieve goals.
- Illustrate self-confidence and a positive attitude, both attributes of a strong leader.
- Motivate yourself and your team to move actions forward and achieve more.
- Build a strong trusting team by sharing and really listening to one another.
- Be consistent to ensure your team knows what to expect from you.
- Support and advocate for your team to build trust and creativity.
- Service not self. Serve alongside your members and team.
- Ask members and your team what motivates them the most. What is their skill set?
- Delegate! A leader does not do it all themselves! Personally contact members for help based on what interests them or what they enjoy doing.
 - Listen, and ask questions to learn and understand. If it doesn't make sense to you, it may not to others.
 - Ask 'WHY' often to define the rationale behind what we do and why we do it and to get to the root cause of a problem. Work with your team to define solutions that work best for the good of the Auxiliary and/or the American Legion Family.
 - Push for change. Needed change, not change for change sake.
 - Be open and fair. Talk with a member privately or the unit/team as a whole, to help understand the situation and problem solve together.
 - Be flexible. The unexpected happens often so we need to adapt expectations and goals as needed to accomplish what needs to be done.
 - Build trust with integrity and honesty.

If you would like to schedule a Leadership Workshop with your unit or district, please contact me.

Teamwork Makes Dreams Work.
HAVE FUN AND ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE!

HISTORY PROGRAM

Sue Turowski
Department Historian
sueturowski@hotmail.com

I spent a couple of hours trying to look for a great quote to offer to each of you and the one that I thought of myself when I first sat down to type is the one that I keep coming back to, so here it is! *"If we do not record what our units are doing, then how will we ever know what is working for us and what is not?"* Sue Turowski, Department of Wisconsin Historian (2022-2023)

When we were all standing in the receiving line at the Department Convention in July, a member came up to me and mentioned that She is the Historian for her unit and that she is the one who is the keeper of all records! Therefore, when it is time for reports, their unit has no problems because she uses her records to fill out the reports! AND she told me that I could use that information. I just do not remember who it was so that I can give her credit. Thank YOU to that member for your words of wisdom, I am sharing them with everyone.

So, this year I would like to ask all HIS-

TORIANS to please ask your members to report to you EVERYTHING they do! Yep, every single task, event, item purchased, dimes spent for even the smallest thing, everything that is done in the name of your unit, please give to your HISTORIAN so that she may record it for your unit. Remember please, that a picture is worth a thousand words.

I love history (don't you?) and to be a part of history in the making is even more exciting to me, so I am really looking forward to seeing many of your history books this year. If anyone has any questions or needs any help, please feel free to reach out and ask. The suggestion from the member mentioned above is excellent and I hope that all of you will try it.

"The best moments in reading are when you come across something – a thought, a feeling, a way of looking at things – which you had thought special and particular to you. And now, here it is, set down by someone else, a person you have never met, someone even who is long dead. And it is as if a hand has come out and taken yours."
Alan Bennett, English playwright (1934-)

POPPY PROGRAM

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

The Poppy, that small fragile red crepe paper flower which is the symbol of strength, honor, sacrifice, and remembrance. Wear a poppy to promote conversation and awareness.

This program honors veterans for their service and sacrifice by promoting and educating all people of the poppy's history and the financial benefit realized by our nation's Veterans as a result of its distribution. This program includes the circulation of the poppy and promotion of its history and the significance of its distribution.

As units begin looking at which programs that they will be working for 2023, remember poppies can be distributed year-round so start working on new ideas. Decide if what worked last year is still a valid idea, or do you need to start to think outside the box? Invite all members of the American Legion Family to assist with distribution. Poppy distributions are likely to be different in most communities. Remember to always ask for permission to distribute in front a business location, just do not presume that it is okay. If local businesses allow, leave a poppy canister at their locations.

If you have not yet ordered your poppies, do so as soon as possible. The deadline to order is December 15, 2022. Orders will be filled as received so don't wait to order! As in past years, if you did not submit your 2022 Poppy Profit report, you will not be sent any poppies.

Sponsor a Poppy Poster Contest. Contact the art teachers at your local schools now and encourage them to enter the contest. Posters submitted for department citations are due May 1, 2023, and one winner in each classification will be sent on to Central Division for further competition. Each Unit Chairman should allow ample time to have posters judged at your district level as applicable.

The 2022-2023 Poppy Program Action Plan and poppy information and worksheets will be posted on the department website (www.amlegionauxwi.org) or you can contact me for any information you may need to make your district, county, or unit Poppy Program a success.

Remember reporting is essential to achieve our mission of quality support for our Veterans. Mid-year narratives are due to me by December 3, 2022, and annual reports are due to department by April 15, 2023. Let me know all the creative ways your unit is promoting the Poppy Program. Photos and newspaper articles are greatly appreciated. I look forward to hearing from all of you!

LEGISLATIVE

Diane Weggen
Department Chair

BELIEVE, because we have the power to make a positive difference for family, community, state, and nation by participating in the legislative process. The American Legion Auxiliary is one of the nation's most prominent supporters of Veterans, military, and their families. Advancing the mission of The American Legion by helping to draft and pass the GI Bill years ago to helping pass the Honoring Our PACT Act, which President Biden signed into law on August 10, 2022, clearly demonstrates how members have the power to help Veterans and their families.

Too many times we feel we have no say and blame the government for whatever we feel is not right. The bottom line is: WE ARE THE GOVERNMENT.

As American citizens we have the right to vote to elect the candidates we feel will best care for us and our country. **Our soldiers are fighting every day for this right for all Americans. They are not soldiers serving to say I am right, and you are wrong, or that my beliefs are more important than yours.** Voting has become complicated because of this current attitude expressed across the United States of America.

Our lives are not one-dimensional, and yet, many of us vote based on only one issue or how our friends, family, and neighbors are voting rather than taking time to educate ourselves about all the issues that affect us every single day. As members of the American Legion Family advocating for Veterans, we must take time to discover which of our beliefs are

true and which are not. Many people are depending on us.

There are several actions we can take to educate ourselves and others.

- Sign up for TAL Action Alerts: amlegionauxwi.org > Legislative page. PDP Joanie Dickerson walks the viewer through the process to sign up for Action Alerts and the latest information about bills The American Legion is supporting.

- Participate in "Get Out the Vote" activities.

- Host school board candidates in a round-table discussion about their beliefs surrounding curriculum, monies allocated for education, school choice, teacher certification, special education funding, etc.

- Make phone calls to encourage voting.
- Host a Town Hall meeting; make sure to include all candidates or their representative for the position/s.

- Educate the youth about our voting system.

The American Legion Family is A NON-PARTISAN ORGANIZATION (remains neutral within the political system) which continues to be instrumental on advancing legislation that improves the quality of life for our Veterans and service members. Because The American Legion does not promote any political party or candidates, it is important that members not wear American Legion branded clothing/accessories when attending or participating in political activities. Also, American Legion Family members and leaders should not promote any candidate or party on social media.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Sandy Mack
Department Chair
smack0555@gmail.com
262-388-9816

Public Relations refers to managing how others see and feel about a person, brand, or company. It is about managing perceptions – how people see our organization. It aims to increase awareness, improve business reputation, and attract attendees, donations, etc.

Through the years I have seen many fliers from posts/units holding fundraisers. There are so many wonderful events held by our American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion Family. What sticks out to me are the letters ALA. To a non-member, what do those three letters mean? Chances are nothing. We are the American Legion Auxiliary and should be spelling that out. Request permission to

use logos on your fliers. The request form can be found online and response to your request is quick. The American Legion Auxiliary logo is a great way to promote the Auxiliary. Use your post and unit name and number, and include where the proceeds will go if available. One way of writing where the proceeds will go could be, “Proceeds to benefit Veteran organizations and their families.”

Please feel free to share a copy of your unit’s fundraiser flier and let’s start by sharing those with others. Let’s work together to show our support for other units. We are all here serving the same mission.

Both myself and my team Shirley Krier and Bob Shappell are hoping to reach out to all District Presidents to share unit ideas on best practices for public relations.

Thank you for all you do! Together we can make a difference!

VA & R — CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

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

It may seem early but plans for the 2022 edition of ALA Christmas Gift Shop are underway! We are excited that we can bring this great program to our Veterans in some of the long-term care facilities once again.

For those who are not familiar with Christmas Gift Shop, this program began a long time ago. It allows Veterans in long-term care facilities to select gifts to send to their loved ones at Christmas time at no cost to them. The program has changed a lot over the years, but there is one thing that will never change, and that is our commitment to caring for our Veterans and their families. These past two years, our Veterans in long-term care facilities spent long and lonely hours for many months with no family visits. They were overjoyed when they heard that they would be able to choose

gifts for their families this year. Christmas Gift Shop allowed them to feel connected to their loved ones and gave them something positive to focus on.

The 2022 version of Christmas Gift Shop will continue our long-standing tradition of providing gifts as we have in the past. Our selection of available gifts will be photographed, and a “catalog” created for the Veterans to view and select their gifts. Staff will assist us in completing the orders. Items will be ordered, sorted, and prepared for our annual wrapping day. A group of dedicated Legion Family members will gather to wrap the gifts and pack them for shipping. A couple trips to the Post Office and UPS will complete the project.

The cost of gifts, wrapping and shipping are all totally covered by your donations. Checks payable to ‘ALA-Wisconsin’ should be mailed to Department Headquarters noting Christmas Gift Shop in the memo field. This program would not be possible without your generous funding. Thank you for supporting this program!

VA & R — DIRECTOR OF HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS

Sue Hembrook
Department Chairman
genesuehem@wi.rr.com
262-843-4791

Thank you, thank you very much! You are all so incredibly generous! Our Veterans are lucky to have you supporting them. In that light, the hospital wish lists will again be included in the bimonthly unit mailing. Please refer to these lists when looking for ideas to enhance the lives of our hospitalized Veterans.

Your generosity shows through the tremendous outpouring in the things our Veterans need or use to make their lives easier. However, if your unit, district, or individuals plan to donate items, please check with that facility’s hospital representative. You are so very generous that our facilities may be saturated with donations of one kind or another and may not have a need at the time you may want to donate. If your facility cannot accept your donations, please give me a call and I will put the word out to our

other facilities to coordinate those items. Our facilities applaud you because when they put out a need you surely come through. We must keep the safety of our Veterans as our top-most priority, so please let the facility know ahead of time of your desire to deliver items. COVID is still with us to some degree, and we must keep our Veterans safe.

Our facilities are all very unique so please use the wish lists as a guide for donations that are needed. We all want to serve our Veterans to the best of our ability. These wish lists are a guideline for you to serve those in need. If items are not on the list and you think they may be useful, please contact our hospital representatives as they are aware of the needs and wants of the Veterans they serve. Our facilities also welcome cash donations as they can provide items as needed. Please send these donations to department headquarters, earmarked for the facility you want the funds assigned. Again, thank you for all you do to serve our Veterans.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Mike Rohan
Department Chairman
mdnrohan@gmail.com
608-837-9763

On November 11, 2022, we will celebrate Veterans Day – a day to thank, celebrate, and honor all Veterans for their patriotism, love of country, willingness to serve, and sacrifice for the common good. Many of our Veterans have missed us these last two years of the pandemic as we have been “locked out” of celebrating their service. This year is the perfect time to stand united in respect for our Veterans and show them that they are loved and appreciated by the American Legion Family, their community, state, and nation.

This year, more than ever, we need to honor those men and women who truly understand sacrifice. We must celebrate those who realized nothing in their lives was as important as defending this nation. We need to thank those men and women, on behalf of a grateful nation, for being good citizens and giving us the freedoms we enjoy today because of their willingness to serve.

Honoring and supporting the sacrifice of those who serve is the foundation of the American Legion Auxiliary’s mission. Although Auxiliary members are dedicated to helping our nation’s heroes every day, Veterans Day – November 11 – is the one day set aside annually to show gratitude for all our Veterans and service members.

It is impossible to compensate Veterans for their great personal sacrifice, but we can honor them on Veterans Day by demonstrating our deep appreciation for all they have done. Traditionally, Veterans Day is observed with local parades, dinners, and celebrations, but there are countless other ways to show your appreciation to Veterans on this memorable holiday, and now is the time to start planning for them.

Beyond in-person events and volunteer activities, try giving back to Veterans through kind words and artistic projects. These small acts of kindness come from the heart and will be treasured by our past servicemembers forever. Honor military Veterans and educate our youth about the importance of Veterans Day this November 11 with these craft ideas that can be found at <https://www.legion-aux.org/Blog/Start-planning-now-Veterans-Day-ideas-for-your-uni>

- **Popsicle stick flag:** Get your Junior ALA members together to create these unique American flags for the Veterans in your community. This craft is a fun way to educate Junior members about the significant sacrifice United States servicemembers have made and continue to make every day to ensure our freedom and safety.
- **Handmade patriotic bookmark:** Looking for a creative craft to do with your Auxiliary unit for Veterans Day? These handmade bookmarks can be completed by younger members, older members, and everyone in between.
- **Personal thank-you cards for Veterans:** Often, our Veterans’ most memorable and encouraging gifts are thank-you cards/letters with special messages that will let them know how grateful you are for their sacrifices.

VA & R — SERVICE TO VETERANS

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

Fall is such a beautiful season in Wisconsin, nature shows its beauty by the brilliant colors on display. Families gather together to have a few more barbecues, parents are busy taking their children to school events, and of course every television channel has a football game on! Halloween decorations are flying off the shelves to make way for Christmas holiday décor.

ALA in the Know is in full swing. Districts and counties are hosting their Fall conferences. Units will be making plans to serve and honor Veterans for Veterans Day, packaging boxes for troops overseas, and plans will be made to help make Christmas better for Veterans at our VA facilities, along with their children and children in our communities.

Members take part in send-offs or welcome home events for Veterans who were on Honor Flights. Disabled Veterans will receive comfort items, including handmade blankets or other items purchased or made by members. Homeless Veterans will receive socks, handwarmers, hats, gloves, and other items to help

make their lives a little better.

Meals will be delivered to veterans’ homes, groceries, prescriptions, transportation to various appointments, gas and food gift cards will be purchased as well as cards, and letters of encouragement will be sent by members.

Those members who are caregivers for their spouse or parent will be asked what can be done to help them take care of themselves, whether it is time for taking a walk, going to the hairdresser, getting a cup of coffee or a handwritten note, will make him or her feel appreciated and recognized.

These are a few examples of “Service to Veterans” for our Veterans, military, and their families that our members do daily without realizing the huge impact it makes on our American heroes and their families.

Remember to keep track of your hours, dollars, in-kind donations, and mileage you have already spent serving veterans, military and their families these past months. Your hours are tabulated and recorded at department headquarters. When you reach qualifying hours, a Service to Veterans bar or pin will be sent to you.

Believe in what we do – we help make the lives of our American heroes better, one day at a time!

KOUTZ ELECTED 2022-2023 ALA NATIONAL PRESIDENT

“What a true honor this is,” said American Legion Auxiliary 2022-2023 National President Vickie Koutz during her installation speech at the 2022 National Convention in Milwaukee. We are on to another year of the ALA with a continued focus on serving our veterans, military, and their families with Koutz in the ALA’s highest volunteer leadership position.

Vickie Koutz is the third ALA member to serve as national president from the Department of Indiana. The previous national president, Alice Galka, served during the 1988-1989 administrative year. Humble, kind, and considerate, Koutz puts others ahead of herself, truly living the ALA motto of Service Not Self.

Koutz grew up in Boonville in southwestern Indiana, a town with a population of about 6,500, and has lived there her whole life. Koutz has been married to Jim for 50 years, and they have a son, Michael, who spoke about his mother during the installation of officers ceremony. “The day is finally here, and we are so proud of her,” he said. “I know my mom will accomplish a lot this next year. I encourage you to break out of your comfort zone.” For Koutz, getting-out-of-her-comfort-zone includes trying new foods, public speaking, and traveling alone, all which Michael is confident she will do successfully during her term as national president.

For the 2022-2023 ALA year, Vickie Koutz’s focus is to honor our Veterans every day. Additionally, her president’s project will be supporting companions of National Veterans Creative Arts Festival participants. “Sometimes, companions can’t afford to pay for a meal plan,” she said. “This



Vickie Koutz
2022-2023 ALA National President

broke my heart. The one person who is a constant in their life couldn’t stay with them during meals.” Her project on companions is triple tiered – money for a meal plan, travel, and/or a separate hotel room if needed for non-family member companions.

Koutz is also working to raise awareness of our country’s Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. Her husband, Jim, returned to Vietnam years after his military service to help dig for remains, and since then, wears a POW bracelet all the time. “Listening to him talking about his experiences made me realize how important it still is today,” she said.

REHBEIN ELECTED 2022-2023 CENTRAL DIVISION NATIONAL VP

Ann Rehbein was elected the 2022-2023 Central Division National Vice President at National Convention. Ann hails from the Department of Iowa and belongs to Ames Unit 37. She is eligible for membership through the service of her father, John Grutsch; brother, Mike Grutsch; husband, David Rehbein; and daughter, Jennifer Rehbein.

Ann’s family includes her husband, David, and their two children, Chris Rehbein and Jennifer Rehbein, along with three grandchildren – Greyson and Camille Rehbein and Devin Von Querner. Ann has a bachelor’s degree from Iowa State University. Her career includes five years as executive director of Quilts of Valor, a chocolatier, and store owner. She is a past president of Ames Main Street District and a member of Freedom Flight Committee. Ann also served as the Department of Iowa’s executive secretary.



Ann Rehbein
2022-2023 Central Division National VP

2022-2023 NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Joanie Dickerson	Public Relations Committee Vice Chairman
Diane Duscheck	American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Vice President
Sue Hembrook	Americanism Committee Central Division Chairman
Bonnie Jakubczyk	National Executive Committee person and Poppy Committee Vice Chairman
April Kollmorgen	Legislative Committee Central Division Chairman
Diana Sirovina	Constitution & Bylaws Committee Chairman
Diane Weggen	Alternate National Executive Committee person

2021-2022 NATIONAL CONVENTION AWARDS

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin received the following awards or acknowledgement for the 2021-2022 administrative year:

NATIONAL PRESIDENT’S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

Community Service Unit Award
Marie Tabat, Unit Chairman – Oak Creek Unit 434, District 4
for Promoting the Legion Family’s Involvement in Community Events throughout the Year

Honorable Mention
Department of Wisconsin
Diane Weggen, Department President
for Supporting Those Who Care for Others

AMERICANISM

Best Department Americanism Program in Central Division
Department of Wisconsin – Becky Mueller, Department Chairman

Americanism Essay Contest
Class II, Best Essay in Central Division
Matthew Tolle – Sponsored by Bagley Unit 482, District 3

Class III, Best Essay in Central Division
Camryn Schwarz – Sponsored by Sparta Unit 100, District 7

Class VI, Best Essay in Central Division
Fiona Wendt – Sponsored by Shiocton Unit 512, District 9

HISTORIAN

Best Department History in Central Division
Department of Wisconsin
Sue Hembrook, Department Historian

LEADERSHIP

Unit Member of the Year
Ted Kubiak – Sponsored by Waunakee Unit 360, District 3

MEMBERSHIP

‘Together We Serve’ Award
Outstanding Membership Chairman in Central Division
Maggie Geiger – Department Membership Chairman

Department 75% Goal Award
Reaching 75% of their 2022 Department membership goal by 12/7/21
Department of Wisconsin
Maggie Geiger, Department Membership Chairman

Units that reached 100% of their 2021 membership goal by 11/10/2021
Stoughton Unit 59
Delavan Unit 95
Black River Falls Unit 200
Coleman Unit 280
Birchwood Unit 379
Ridgeland Unit 511
Sheboygan Unit 83
Two Rivers Unit 165
Tigerton Unit 239
DeForest Unit 348
Cambria Unit 401

New Unit Award – New Unit Chartered by 7/31/2022
Moe-Miller Unit 12, Spooner, WI (District 12)

‘10 New in 2022’ Award

Members that recruited 10 new Jr and/or Sr members by 6/4/2022
Mary-Ellen Crandall of Pewaukee Unit 71
Jessica Elmhorst of Neillsville Unit 73

POPPY

Poppy Poster Contest, Class I
Best Poppy Poster in Central Division
Clementine Didier
Sponsored by Port Washington Unit 82, District 2

Poppy Poster Contest, Class VII
Best Poppy Poster in Central Division
Anna James
Sponsored by Crivitz Unit 413, District 9

VAVS MEETINGS PERFECT ATTENDANCE CARD

Pat (Joyce) Flanders, Hospital Representative
Tomah VA Medical Center, Tomah, WI

Sheila Frye, Hospital Representative
Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital, Madison, WI

Sandra Kaebisch, Hospital Deputy
Zablocki VA Medical Center, Milwaukee, WI

Sue Middlestead, Hospital Deputy
Zablocki VA Medical Center, Milwaukee, WI



Linda Coppock
Department
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, the seasons are changing! Schools are back in session, football is in full swing, and it's that time of the year for ALA in the Know presentations! Conventions are over and a new year of fall meetings has begun. If you did not take advantage of the opportunity to attend the National Convention in Milwaukee, you missed a great time. It's been

several years since the American Legion Wisconsin delegation had a hotel with such great service and an environment for all delegates to enjoy each other's company. I am much better acquainted with the whole Wisconsin American Legion delegation than I was before I went. Congratulations to all ALA Wisconsin program recipients for the awards they received on a job well done! Look for the list of winners in this edition.

For my special project this year, I have decided to give back to the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary. We have been over the top generous on fundraising for any of our special programs in years past, but this year, I want our efforts to focus on the members of our own organization as well as the Veterans, active military, and their families. I **Believe** in the benefits our programs provide to our members, our Veterans, active military, all their families, and our communities. I also **Believe** we need to financially support the programs of our organization, our general fund included.

I was part of a discussion on how to keep expenses to a minimum while promoting all of the programs we do. My logic is basic. Take into consideration monies you raised in previous years for special programs. Now, think of the programs in our organization that could use that amount of funds. October is Education Month. Donations to the Education program would guarantee money for scholarships disbursed to Junior and Senior members. Donations to the M. Louise Wilson Loan Fund will continue to grow which allows more recipients to use that account to further their education. Donations to the General Fund will help fund the bi-monthly "Wisconsin", which, in return, helps keep membership dues from increasing.

November is Membership Month. Have you earned your GNOME pin yet? I did! Getting membership collected is easy if you make it fun! **Getting New & Old Members Excited** is everybody's responsibility. Help your membership chairmen as often as you can – I am sure they will appreciate the help!

Remember, **Believe** in what you do for this organization. I **Believe** everyone has a passion to work the mission and I **Believe** any effort to work our mission is of great value to our Veterans and active military, their families and our communities.

Believe in YOU! I do!



Julie Muhle
Department
Commander

★★★★ DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ★★★★★

I am now two months into my term as Commander and I have been enjoying it. I enjoy traveling and seeing our Posts and meeting our Legionnaires. In as much as I have been enjoying the year, challenges have been brought forth. It is during these challenging times that we can look the other way because it isn't part of the plan or I am just here for a

short time or, we do the right thing and take those challenges head on. Why do I mention this? Because the American Legion Post, County or District job you have is only going to be as good as you choose to make it.

We have a large variety of Legionnaires taking on roles within the Legion. Some are hat chasers, some are brand spanking new, eager to learn and others have run their course and are secretly awaiting relief. When you take on a role within the Legion, you are sworn in either at an actual event or by virtue of the new year. The oath you take calls on you to remember the cardinal purposes of The American Legion are the rehabilitation of all disabled Veterans; care of the dependents of those who have answered the final call; care of those who now are suffering from wounds, disease and want; the education of our children, and service to the community, state and nation. It seems to be pretty easy but we just cannot get out of our own way. We fight amongst ourselves or within the family. We try to solve world hunger when we just need to focus on events we have control over.

We need to look at what can we do to succeed. When we are thrown that challenge, how can overcome it? Each one of us can do something. Each one of you are a member because you believe you can do something for Veterans, their families and our communities. You can be an instrument of change. It starts with one. Listen to that small voice that says "I can do something". The members of our Posts can affect change. Our organization was founded on the basis that change comes from the bottom up, not top down. Stop asking headquarters to solve your problems. They can give guidance but it is not their responsibility to fix them. Our programs came about as a result of a resolution and where do resolutions start? Yep, at the Post level.

How will you serve The American Legion? How will you serve your Post? What do we need that your talent can

provide? What do you need that we can provide? The effect you have on others is the most valuable currency there is. You are ready and able to do great things. Listen to your heart, not the person talking in your ear. Don't let fear and excuses get in the way of your potential. You don't have to do everything for everybody but you should do something for somebody. Talents you have in your workplace or home can benefit others but you need to do something or there will be nothing for nobody.

You need to take a chance on success or failure and if it is failure, it isn't that YOU are a failure, it is the approach you took that didn't work. There is no shame in trying. Pick yourself back up and figure out how to do better. Maybe the next step is a failure but you succeeded in improving one thing. Think about your Post. If you get one more member than the year before, it is a success. Yeah maybe it isn't the goal that was chosen but don't let that get in your head.

It is important to let each other know that we are here. That we are a part of a larger self. See the end. Know what you want, then make that map to get there. We need to make sure our service members and our own Legionnaires know we have their back. This is our job and this is how we stay strong.

I am challenging each Post to call all of their members at least quarterly. This is a best practice of Posts who continue to be 100% and above. It isn't an unachievable task. Once you determine how many members will be making calls, you can divide that into the number of members in your Post. This will give you the number of members each person needs to call. Remember, the goal is quarterly. For example, if you have 150 members and 10 members who are willing to call, each caller then has 15 members to call. Now divide this number by 4 for the number of weeks in a month and each caller has 4 members to call per week. This can easily be completed.

This year I am asking everyone to learn. Use the Keys for Success you have available to you. Like every lock has a key, every challenge has a solution. You might not know where to find it but you have a plethora of resources available to help you look. Past and upcoming National Commanders, past and current Department, District, County and Post Commanders. National and Wisconsin American Legion College graduates (stand if you are here). Utilize these resources and all of the documents available. Keys stands for Knowledge and Education equals Your Success. Together we can succeed.



Randy Timms
State Secretary
American Legion
Riders Association

★★★★ LEGION RIDERS ★★★★★

If you are not a Legion Rider and own a motorcycle of 500cc or bigger, please consider joining! The roughly 750 Riders throughout the State do so much good for the Veterans we serve it would be impossible to list all the activities in one article.

So if you love to ride and love to support Veterans and Veteran causes, become an American Legion Rider today! And, it's a great way to call positive attention to your Post within your community!

Our much-anticipated Iroc's Badger Run was completed and by all accounts, was a huge success! We began the Run on June 24, 54 motorcycles strong leaving Sheboygan's Triple Nickel (Post 555), home to Department Commander Eirich. After traveling to 13 Legion Posts over the course of 3 days, we ended at The Highground on June 26. Ultimately, we provided the Highground Rising Project with a just over \$38,200.

It was so satisfying along the way to see the outpouring of support at every stop! And because of the amount raised, The Highground informed us the American Legion Riders Association of Wisconsin will forever have a plaque located at the Highground to recognize their contribution to this fine project. My hearty congratulations to all that helped make this Run a success!

When Corey and I started this, we knew it was something we'd love to continue. So, the conversations have

already begun on the "Run" for next year. Corey Doehrmann, Brad Heller, Gary Hess and I have begun discussions and we're in the early stages of planning. If your Post would like to host the Run, please drop us a comment and let us know. One Post per day would provide lunch, while all other Posts would simply provide a nonalcoholic beverage break. We'd stay at "beverage" posts about 45 minutes and the lunch Post about 75. Of course, which Post does what is dependent on the location of all Posts and the routing we're able to create. Ideally, your Post would speak to their local community and encourage them to meet us and make their contributions in person. What I can guarantee, is everyone involved is blessed by the outpouring of love and encouragement.

There are 500 Legion Posts in our State. Imagine if each one was able to donate just \$100.00! A donation of \$50,000.00 would make a Significant Impact on anyone! What several Posts did for Iroc's, was keep the "house" side of 50/50 drawings for a month or two and donated those dollars. Amazing how quickly that added up! Please consider your part in the Run for next year!

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



David Fuller
SAL Detachment
Commander

★ SAL DETACHMENT ★ COMMANDER

Greetings PROUD Sons,

We have made it through our conventions and now it is time to get to work. We all know what we have to do to make the Sons stronger and to keep us moving forward. Last year we made a push at the end of the year to take us from 103% to 106% by the close of membership. Unfortunately, we were two weeks late to qualify for the triple

Nickel award. We cannot allow this to happen again so get your memberships in early and let's show the organization, and the nation that we are PROUD of who we are. As you begin your fundraising remember to ask people if they are members or if they want to be, show them that you are PROUD to be a member.

Last year we had a very disappointing 32% of our squadrons filled their CSRs. This report is one of the most important pieces of information that we have because it shows what we do to support our Squadron as well as supporting our Post. Last year with only 32% reporting, as a group we contributed a total of \$1,404,363.14 in goods, time and money. If we were to multiply that number out to show 100% reporting that number would be over \$4.2 million. Now that is something to be proud of. If you need help filing these reports, contact your District Vice Commander or any Detachment Officer and we will be glad to help. Let's get to 100%.

Speaking of the Detachment Officers I would like to tell you how PROUD I am of them; they are always willing to jump in and help anyone that needs it. They are very capable and knowledgeable to help you with whatever you need. Since we are on the subject of Detachment Officers, are you the one to step up and be the next one? You may find it to be very rewarding.

The underlying point of this article is to be proud of who you are and what you do. Your actions benefit many others.