



BADGER



LEGIIONNAIRE

& WISCONSIN VOL 101 #6 | DEC. 2024



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MIDWINTER 2025 — KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Hilton Paper Valley
333 West College Avenue
Appleton, WI 54911

JAN 16-19 2025

REGISTRATION FORM

Pre-register for The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin 2025 Midwinter Conference by returning this registration form and \$25.00 per person (1 person per registration form) to Department Headquarters by January 2, 2025, and **save \$5.00!** Registrations received after January 2, 2025, will be \$30.00 per person. Or register online at wilegion.org.

(Please type or print clearly in order for your badge to be printed correctly- List your name how you wish it to be printed on your badge)

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

ITEM	NO	PRICE	TOTAL
Registration Fee (only one per form)		\$25.00	
Reg. Fee After 1/2/25 (only one per form)		\$30.00	
Celebrate Your Heritage Banquet		\$40.00 <i>(RSVP By January 2, 2025)</i>	
Check Here if you are attending the Auxiliary Session on Saturday, January 18, 2025. (Must pay the Registration fee to enter)			
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 angie@wilegion.org



The 2025 Midwinter Conference will be held January 16-19, 2025 at the Hilton Paper Valley, 333 West College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911.

Thursday will feature a 2.2 Mile Be The One Walk led by Department Commander Jim Johnson. Thursday evening join the Wisconsin American Legion Foundation for their quarterly meeting.

Friday will kick off the business meetings. Come experience the work of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin. In the evening enjoy the many hospitality rooms put on by the 2025/2026 candidates for office. This is a great way to meet the future leaders of the Department and Legionnaires from all over the state.

Saturday is a full day of **LEARNING**. There are exciting opportunities for all Legion Family members at this year's Midwinter.

New Class Offerings:

- Marketing your Post, County or District
- Columbia Protocol-Be The One Training
- UW MIA Recovery & Identification Project
- P.R. & the local Legion Family

Legion College Courses:

- Post Commander's Course
- Post Adjutant's Course
- Generational Leadership
- MyLegion.org
- Consolidated Post Reporting

Back by Popular Demand:

- M1 Garand Training
- Service Officer Training
- Funeral Honors
- Auxiliary session
- SAL Training
- Americanism Spotlight



Saturday Evening join Commander Jim for the Celebrate Your Heritage Banquet. Come enjoy a buffet dinner, entertainment by Boogie Time Entertainment- You get to decide on the music by putting in your requests and show your pride by dressing like your ancestors. (Who knows you may see the Commander in a kilt-but must attend to find out.)

Sunday join the Legion Family Chaplains for a Four Chaplain's Service followed by the Department Executive Committee meeting.

Housing:

Hilton Paper Valley
333 West College Avenue
Appleton, WI 54911

For more information including up to date schedules, registration, training brochure, housing link, song request link and more go to <https://wilegion.org/midwinter>.

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Michelle Adams

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John Berg
Aimee Korger

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NECman - **Robert Shappell**
Alternate NECman - **Karl Stuvenger**
Judge Advocate - **Nicholas Lange**

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1st – Candace Rothering
2nd – Charlie Young
3rd – Dan O'Brien
4th – Steve Kohnke
5th – Craig Ellis
6th – Dave Steinert
7th – Chet Faith
8th – Adam Klapperich
9th – Terry McNulty
10th – Rita Rindahl
11th – Gerry Johnson
12th – James Woody

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
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Becky Mueller, 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

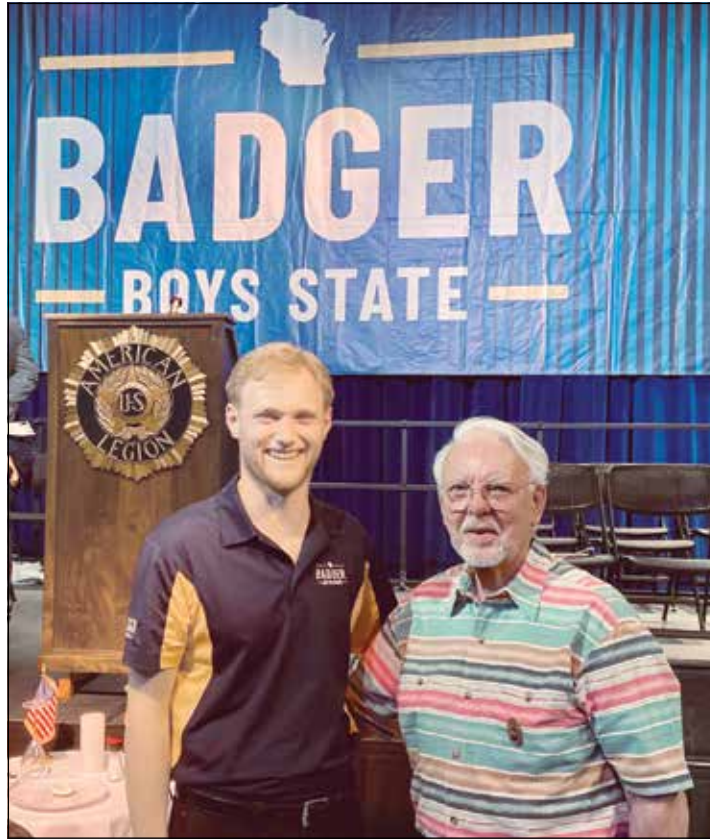
BBS HISTORY ENTERING THE DIGITAL AGE

By Zac Dickhut

The 51 weeks where there is no session of Badger Boys State is known as the “offseason.” Many of our volunteers return to their hometowns—many out-of-state—and life continues as normal. But don’t let this fact fool you. There is plenty of work that gets done by some who continue to volunteer throughout the season. Indeed—your ongoing support for Badger Boys State doesn’t only impact the life-changing week for the young men who constitute Wisconsin’s promise—it supports year-round efforts to improve the program so that we can reach more citizens and reach deeper into their lives.



One such effort is taking place in our archives—thousands of photographs, documents, and many objects that help tell our story of inspiring nearly six generations of leaders in our state. So many still point to our one week of “government stuff” as a moment that charted a new course in their lives, and we are setting



Badger Boys State Historian Zac Dickhut with former BBS Governor Bill Ellmann at the 81st session of Badger Boys State.

out to digitize this collective experience not only to better preserve it, but to share it with our program alumni.

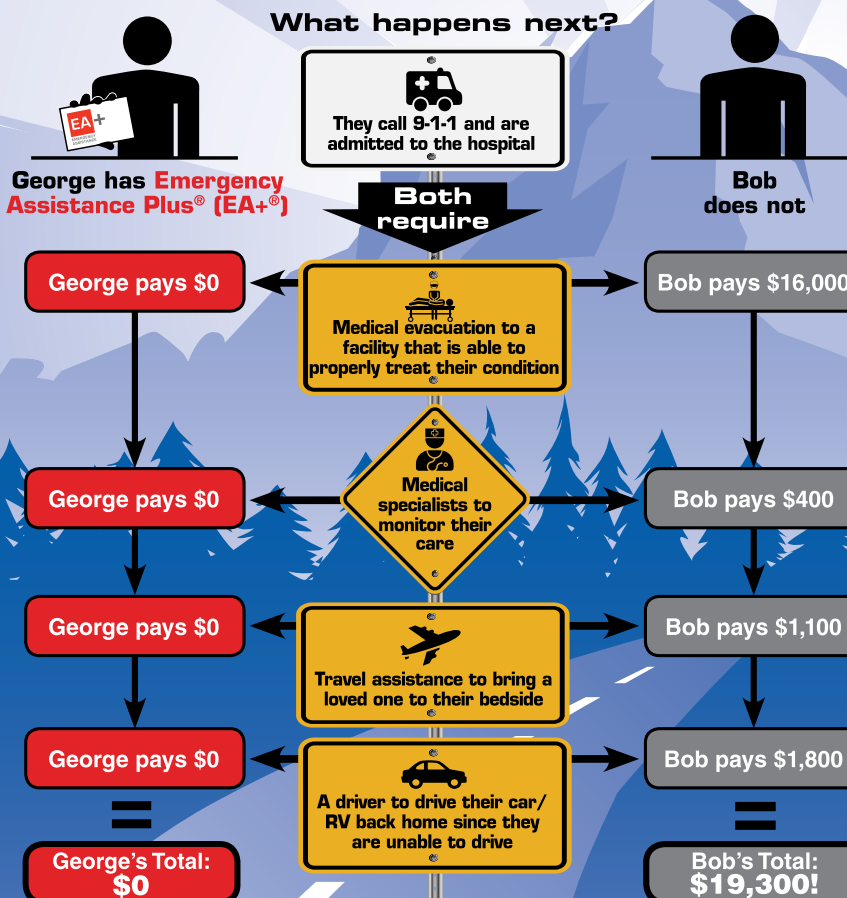
We begin by making some sense of the objects in our collection. By taking care to keep things in order and identifying people in photographs, if possible, the scope of our collection comes into focus. We then scan the photos to create a digital copy and take photos of the artifacts as well.

Each object is assigned a unique number so that we can keep track of what it is and where it is. Lastly, each object is uploaded to our management system where soon everyone with internet access will be able to view and enjoy our collection of thousands.

Another project we are working on—the first of many oral history interviews took place at Eau Claire this past session. We interviewed our 1954 Governor and Boys Nation Senator Bill Ellmann, originally of Waupun. He was able to shed light on his experience when Badger Boys State was still in its infancy and almost entirely run by veterans of World War I. It was an invaluable dive into the program that is now in the twilight of living memory. Despite many aspects of BBS remaining unchanged, some elements that have shifted with the rest of the world over time tell an interesting story. It is the task before us now to preserve our story for generations to come.

What if you were Bob?

George and Bob both go on a solo fishing trip to a beautiful, town in Alaska every summer. While enjoying the idyllic scenery, they both notice chest pains — they are having a heart attack!



Emergency Assistance Plus is an emergency medical transportation service that goes beyond health and travel insurance. It coordinates and provides services for medical transportation, medical evacuation, and travel and companion assistance — services that your medical insurance usually does NOT pay for. You must call EA+ during your emergency so EA+ can make the arrangements for you.

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From Your American Legion Department

WALLECA APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE IN JANUARY



The Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy (WALLECA) application process for prospective cadets for the 2025 academy will be made available on January 2, 2025. The information about WALLECA will be emailed to all Wisconsin high schools prior to the opening of the application process.

The academy consists of 52 cadets who are current high school juniors and seniors. Deadline to apply is March 31, 2025. The application will be made available on The Wisconsin American Legion website, find it on the WALLECA page — <https://wilegion.org/walleca>.

The 2025 WALLECA will be held from June 23, 2025 – June 27, 2025 at the Wisconsin State Patrol Academy at Fort McCoy. The curriculum includes Fire Arms Training, Ethics, Crime Scene Investigation, Physical Readiness Testing, and much more. The classes are instructed by current and retired law enforcement professionals.

This academy is offered to students at no cost. The WALLECA program is funded by donations/sponsorships. If you or your post or another organization is interested in becoming a WALLECA sponsor, please contact Sheri at Legion Headquarters.

Sponsors are recognized on the back of the cadet uniform t-shirts and in the cadet manuals.

Questions regarding WALLECA can be forwarded to Sheri Hicks, Programs Coordinator, at Sheri@wilegion.org or by calling (608)745-1090.



CHANGES TO DEPARTMENT ORATORICAL REGIONAL CONTESTS

In 2024 there were only 7 contestants certified from the Wisconsin American Legion districts to participate in the Department Regional contest in Ripon. Therefore 1 of the 3 Regional contests was cancelled and the contestants were consolidated into 2 contests.

For several years now, there has not been a contestant representing every district in the Regional oratorical contests. The Department of Wisconsin conducts our Regional and Finals contests mirroring how National conducts their contests. That means about 50 volunteers are needed to conduct our regional and finals contests.

It is the goal of the Department of Wisconsin to have all Districts represented at the Regional contest. This creates more competition at the contest and gives more students the opportunity to win scholarships.

The Americanism Committee passed a motion to improve the process of using alternate contestants to fill the spots where district oratorical chairs have not certified a winner to Department to represent their districts.

The process includes:

- Any districts that have multiple contestants, the second-place contestant can be certified to move on to the regional contest as an alternate contestant. Each district can only have one alternate contestant. The alternate selected may also be used in the event of a district finalist who is unable to participate due to illness or another reason.
- Districts are not required to submit an alternate contestant, this would only be in the event that they have multiple qualified contestants.
- After March 1, the deadline date to submit district



certifications to Department, the Department Oratorical Chair will review any vacant contestant spots and randomly pick alternate contestants to participate in the Regional contests by placing all of the names in a box and picking the number of contestants needed to equal 12 total contestants for the Regional contests.

- An alternate winning at the Regional contest could conceivably compete in the Finals against another Regional winner from the same district.

Just because this new process will be implemented, all Districts should strive to have a contestant representing their District in the Regional contests.

The program goal is to have the best contestant representing Wisconsin at the National contest.

Any questions about this new process can be directed to Department Oratorical Chair Robert Stone.

POST 477 AT VALDERS HS



American Legion Post 477 St. Nazianz Family members (Legion, Sons of the American Legion, and Auxiliary) were honored to carry the U.S. Flag onto the field as part of the opening ceremonies of a Valders High School football game.



LEGION RIDERS ESCORT SSGT RALPH H. BODE

On September 27, 1944, an Army Air Corps B24-H Liberator was shot down over Kassel, Germany. Several members of the crew bailed out but did not see 20-year-old tail gunner SSGT Ralph H. Bode. It was uncertain whether he had left the plane.

The Liberator was discovered in 1951 and human remains were also found. In late 2023 via DNA identification the remains were confirmed to be SSGT Bode.

On September 20, 2024, SSGT Ralph H. Bode was returned to Wisconsin. He was flown to Mitchell Airport and met by a niece. A full military honor guard and many others were waiting to pay their respects.

As First District SAL Commander and Legion Rider, it was my honor to help in arranging just some of the details for the motorcycle escort from the airport to the funeral home in Racine.

The SAL were there to show support and to honor SSGT Bode's service and sacrifice. We were blessed to have roughly 40 motorcycles participate in this 18-mile escort. We were joined by the Legion Riders, Patriot Guard, Combat Veterans and VFW Riders. All came together to insure SSGT Bode would be well cared for on this journey.

It was heartwarming to see a Fire Department display the American Flag high above the highway as we drove by. Numerous other departments stood along the roadside

paying tribute to this soldier. Several smaller groups of citizens stood at driveways and parking lots with hands over hearts and a few salutes as we drove past.

SSGT Bode was buried on Friday, September 27, 2024. He is in his final resting place next to his parents, who never received the closure they so richly deserved.

Once again we will all be there to escort him from the funeral home to the cemetery. How fitting that **exactly 80 years to the day**, we are able pay tribute to this young man. And, at the exact time his B 24 Liberator came down to earth, a military fly-over will mark this solemn occasion.

Not many family members remain, but his niece and her husband will be there to say goodbye.

Being a Son of the American Legion is an honor. Performing acts of kindness like this, being able to present ourselves as a living testament of the sacrifice, courage and honor of those that served, is indeed a very high honor. I would encourage every member – whether Legion, SAL, Auxiliary or Rider – to consider how you can make a difference.

Rest in Peace SSGT Ralph H. Bode. Home at last.

Randy Timms
First District SAL Commander
Assistant Detachment Adjutant
Legion Rider State Secretary
District 1 Rider Secretary
Millennium Contributor

Nathan Bond for Department Commander

Nathan Bond, Department Vice Commander, recently announced his candidacy for the high office of Department Commander. His goals remain to ensure the Legacy of The American Legion, increase Education about the Legion's mission and program—among our members and the people of Wisconsin, improve and increase The Legion's Assistance to all veterans and their families, and give Post leaders the tools to perform their Duty in the community.

Bond earned his membership in The American Legion through 24-years of both enlisted and commissioned service in the Army. Nathan and his wife, Julie, live in Williams Bay, Wisconsin where Julie was raised. Their son, Christopher, is a Cadet with the Governor's Guard of Austin Peay State University of Tennessee.

Bond joined The American Legion in 2006 while still on active duty and became a PUFL member in 2007. Julie later became a PUFL Auxiliary member, too. Prior to being elected Department Vice Commander, Nathan held several American Legion positions including Post Adjutant, Post Commander, Post Membership Chair, County Service Officer, District Vice Commander and Commander, and Department Legislative Committee Vice-Chair. He currently serves on the National Councils for Legislative Affairs, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. With Bond's leadership, Ingalls-Koeppen Post 102 achieved 100% membership every year since 2016, and First District achieved 100% in 2023 and 2024.

"Preserving the legacy of The American Legion is our most important task. America needs The American Legion; now more than ever! America needs an organization of dedicated men and women who rise above political divides and focus on the purposes stated in the preamble of our American Legion Constitution. From local posts to National headquarters—Bruce, Wisconsin to Indianapolis, Indiana—we must focus on our purpose and relevance. We do that by mentoring and encouraging new members, by conducting our programs at the local level and supporting them at Department level, by educating ourselves and our communities about those programs, by meeting the needs of our disabled, ill, and financially struggling veterans, by protecting and providing for our children and youth, and by actively supporting our men and women still in uniform. Nothing new, but we must do it. Our villages, cities, towns, and counties, our great state of Wisconsin, and America, need us to do it."



Nathan Bond
Department Vice Commander

Larry Larson for Department Vice Commander

Larry Larson, past 10th District Commander, has declared his candidacy for the High Office of Department Vice Commander. I have earned my membership in The American Legion through my service with the U.S. Army, retiring in 1990. I have been a Legion member for 27 years and a PUFL member for 9 years. My passion is all things American Legion. I have served as Post Commander of Fletcher-Pechacek Post 121 in River Falls twice. For the last 7 years the Post has experienced an all-time high award for membership. My service to the Department of Wisconsin includes serving as the Department Membership Committee Chair and I am currently serving as the Department Fundraising Committee Chair. I have received full support from my Post and the Mighty 10th District. Your support would be greatly appreciated.



Larry Larson
Past 10th District Commander



DARLINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL THANKSGIVING CARDS

For the last 13 years the 2nd grade students at the Darlington Middle School have made Thanksgiving Cards for the Veterans and Nurses at the VA Hospital in Middleton. The tradition was continued for the 14th year with the 2nd grade students making over 80 Thanksgiving Cards for the VA Hospital to be handed out to the Veterans. Pictured along with all the 2nd grade students are their teachers Kim Crist, Stephanie Acherman and Sara Erickson who really support the Veterans and this project. Also pictured are Darlington American Legion Post 214 members Chuck Barnard and Dan O'Brien. Darlington American Legion Post 214 thanks everyone at the Darlington Middle School for supporting this great project for our Veterans.

Steve Kohnke for Department Vice Commander

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,
My name is Steve "Chief" Kohnke, and I respectfully seek your support for my candidacy for Department Vice Commander.

I am eligible for The American Legion through 42 years, 8 months, and 1 day of service in the United States Air Force. I am an Honorary Life Member of Oeschlaeger-Dallmann Post 434 in Oak Creek, where I have served as Post Commander, 1st Vice Commander, and 2nd Vice Commander. At the district level, I've held several Vice Commander roles and currently serve as the 4th District Commander.

My leadership experience includes serving as President and Director of the District 4/5 Legion Riders. I am also a member of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 434 and 40et8 Voiture Locale #1519.

At the department level, I served four years on the Membership Committee, including one year as co-chair. In 2017, I was honored as Department Recruiter of the Year and achieved Gold Brigade status by recruiting 74 new members. I earned Silver Brigade honors for the next three years.

I am a proud graduate of both the Wisconsin American Legion College and the National American Legion College. I fully support the "Be the One" initiative and regularly perform Buddy Checks to engage members and connect with those on the 2930 list.

Beyond the Legion, I serve on the Milwaukee Armed Forces Committee, helping coordinate Armed Forces Week events for Milwaukee County. Recently, I was honored to be appointed by National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr. to the National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission.

It would be a tremendous honor to continue my service as your Department Vice Commander. Thank you for your support. Sincerely, Steve "Chief" Kohnke



Steve Kohnke
4th District Commander

Dave Steinert for Department Vice Commander

Legionnaires, my name is Dave Steinert and I would like to formally announce my candidacy for Vice Commander of The American Legion Department of Wisconsin. My eligibility for membership in The American Legion is from being in the Army National Guard from 1969 to 1992 with the 1157th Transportation Company of Oshkosh. Our company was activated for Desert Shield/Desert Storm from 1990 – 1991. I am a 34-year PUFL member of the Daugherty-Hamilton Post 234 of Omro, along with many other veterans' organizations. I have held many Post, County, and District offices, of which I am currently the 6th District Commander. I believe that a strong American Legion Family, that consists of TAL, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. is what will sustain the Legion into the next 100 years. I would appreciate your vote for the high office of Dept. Vice Commander.



Dave Steinert
6th District Commander



POST 106 SEYMOUR SOUP SOCIAL

9th District Commander Terry McNulty met with Department Sergeant-at-Arms John Berg and Department Auxiliary President Becky Mueller in Seymour for Seymour Post 106 soup social fundraiser for their AA American Legion Championship Baseball team.

POST 185 MEMBERS AT GRANTSBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL

Veterans and Grantsburg Post 185 Legion members Duke Tucker, Lloyd Anderson, Russ Stone, Chuck Swenson and Charles Wright visited Nick Hallberg's eighth grade civics classes at Grantsburg Middle school to tell students about their military experience. Veterans are invited to the class each year around Veterans Day. Mr. Hallberg teaches the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights along with historical war information in the fight to preserve freedom. Veterans also covered the many educational opportunities the military provides.





NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MATHISON VISITS MOUNT HOREB

The American Legion National Vice Commander Roger Mathison made an official visit to Wisconsin November 6 through the 10. We were very fortunate that he stopped in Mount Horeb to visit Mount Horeb American Legion, Frank E. Malone Post 113 on November 7. With him were The Wisconsin National Executive Committee Member Bob Shappell, the Alternate National Executive Committee Member from Wisconsin Karl Stuvengen, Past National Commander Denise Rohan, our own Department Vice Commander Jerry Hook, 3rd District Commander Dan O'Brien, and the 3rd District Sons of the American Legion Commander Seán Patchin. (This is the first time a National Commander or National Vice Commander has visited Mount Horeb American Legion while they were serving in their official capacity).

To start the visit, we awarded National Vice Commander Roger Mathison a Quilt made by Mary Spaay. He was so moved by this gesture. He was truly honored to receive this beautiful handmade quilt. It was a great way to start his visit to Mount Horeb.

We then made calls to members (both Buddy Checks to see how people were doing



PNC Denise Rohan, Department Vice Commander Jerry Hook, NECman Bob Shappell, New Glarus Post Commander Raul Dalma, National Vice Commander Roger Mathison, Alt. NECman Karl Stuvengen, and 3rd District Commander Dan O'Brien.

and membership calls) and then we discussed our Post and Post activities in our community. After calls and discussions, we headed out to the Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial to walk through it and discuss how all three Veterans groups came together with our fantastic community to create such an awesome tribute to

Veterans. We had an excellent visit. Thank you, Don Hartman, for walking the group through and briefing them on the tributes that make up the Memorial, as well as the overall project.

Thank you to all the Veterans and Mount Horeb's Village Administrator Nic Owen who came out to the Memorial for NVC Roger Mathison's visit.



National Vice Commander Roger was so impressed with the activities of the Mount Horeb American Legion and its connection to the VFW, the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Chapter IV, and the community. He understood just how much this fantastic community of Mount Horeb and the surrounding area support our Veterans.

FOX LAKE AMERICAN LEGION POST 521 DEDICATES NEW VETERANS MEMORIAL

**By John D. Michels
Photos by Tanya McClanathan**

Fox Lake American Legion Post #521 dedicated its new Veterans Memorial in a ceremony held outdoors on October 5, in Fox Lake, Wisconsin. Over 100 attendees honored the new memorial dedicated to deceased member and former commander and Korean War Veteran Darrell D. Schultz, who passed away in 2022. His family and descendants were among the attendees. Other guests at the ceremony were State Department Commander Jim Johnson and State Membership Chairman Joe Leone. The Post's Honor Guard led off the ceremony with a rifle salute. Father Nicholas Dhein of Annunciation Parish in Fox Lake blessed the memorial. Among the speakers were Commander Johnson as well as outgoing Post Commander William Linke and incoming Post Commander Dave Pappas, a major donor of the



memorial. The event was emceed by post member and Chaplain John Mund.

The event was organized and coordinated by outgoing Vice Commander and Honor Guard Captain Don Zilewicz. Long-time member



Gale Dahlke honored Darrell Schultz in a fine tribute speech that included the memorable words that Darrell Schultz was a "Norman Rockwell painting come to life" during his life and service to Fox Lake and the American Legion. Women's Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion members as well as Legion Riders were also in attendance on this beautiful day. A complimentary

reception was held in the hall after the dedication.

Four memorial granite stones make up the memorial with a fifth one to be purchased later next year. The memorial replaced the former one, which included the names of veterans on bricks, which over the years aged and were slowly deteriorating on uneven ground. These brick honorees had their names engraved into the memorial. One of the four granite monuments honored those Fox Lake citizens killed in action as well as one dedicated solely to Darrell Schultz. The other two granite stones listed those local citizens who fought and/or served in the U.S. military. Member Royce Neuman was the primary volunteer creating much of the prep work for the memorial and preparing the ground, along with Mike King and other volunteers. The memorial is clearly visible next to the legion post on the southside of Highway 33 going through Fox Lake.





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

DARLINGTON MS 'SALUTE TO VETERANS'



On Wednesday, November 6, part of the Darlington Middle School 2nd grade and 7/8th grade band and chorus had a program at the Darlington Legion Post as a "Salute to Veterans." A great job by Band Director Lynn Curry and Choir Director Tina Schliem putting the program together to honor our local Veterans. Approximately 175 Veterans and Community members attended the program. The students had the privilege of performing in front of American Legion National Legion Officers. Pictured with the students on the left is National Executive Committeeman Bob Shappell, Alt. National Executive Committeeman Karl Stuvengen and pictured on the right are National Vice Commander Roger Mathison and 3rd District Commander Dan O'Brien. This is the 15th year the Middle School students have come to the Darlington American Legion Post 214 to honor the Veterans. A big thank you to Mrs. Lynn Curry and Mrs. Tina Schliem for all their hard work and dedication to honor the Veterans. *Submitted by Dan O'Brien, Third District Commander.*

SENATE PROCLAMATION



Stephen Zillmer, Commander of Watertown Post 189, accepts a proclamation from the Wisconsin State Senate from State Senator John Jagler for being the Watertown Marine Corps League Veteran and Community Person of the Year.

POST 471 DONATES TO SCOUTS

Hatley American Legion Post 471 recently donated to the local Scout Pack 497 to help with expenses and to promote charitable work.



DISTRICT 11 RIDERS CAMP DONATION



American Legion Riders District 11 President Jim Sprague presented a check for \$2,000 to Camp American Legion during the Fall Ride weekend.

DISTRICT 11 RIDERS D-DAY COIN DONATION



District 11 American Legion Riders donated a D-Day 80th Anniversary change coin from Normandy, France for the Fall ride fundraiser for Camp American Legion. The lucky bidders are pictured.

PRICE COUNTY HITS 100



American Legion Post 122 Phillips member and Price County Commander Skip Vick accepts an award from District 11 Commander Gerry Johnson at the Post 122 meeting on account of all of the Price County Posts reaching their 100% mark. Commander Vick received the 100% County membership award for 2023.

NEW POST 49 FLAGPOLE



American Legion Post 49 from Bayfield, WI purchased and installed this flagpole on our waterfront to replace an old and failing pole. 80 bags of concrete were hand mixed by post members and placed in a hole 6 feet deep.

HARLEY-DAVIDSON WELLNESS FAIR

Harley-Davidson held a Wellness Fair for their Powertrain Operations employees on all three shifts in Menomonee Falls on September 26. Curtiss Peck, Past Commander, Wauwatosa American Legion Post 400, spoke to over 600 employees about the R.A.C.E. Suicide Prevention and Be The One programs during the ten hours of the event. One new member was recruited for The American Legion and several other Veterans are considering joining.



POST 200 HOSTS FALL FISH BOIL

Nobody remembers exactly when it started, but Miles-Hagen American Legion Post 200 of Black River Falls holds two fish boils each year, one in the spring and one in the fall. This delicious concoction appears difficult to make, but it is, in fact, deceptively easy. Cod, carrots, onions, rutabagas, and small russet potatoes are boiled in one of several propane-fueled cookers. The fish is sourced from a restaurant wholesaler and the veggies come



from our local grocery store. The only hard work happens on the Wednesday morning preceding the event where members of the post peel and cut the veggies. Our cooks have been doing this for years and know exactly the procedure for cooking all this to perfection.

Our fish boils are always held on a Thursday to avoid competing with local Friday night fish in local eateries. It is not uncommon for people who try this once to not miss any and return each time! A fish boil is a good fundraiser for the post and it is a lot of fun, too.

POST 348 SENDS N.C. HURRICANE ASSISTANCE

The devastation in western North Carolina from Hurricane Helene is unimaginable and heart breaking. At the October meeting the Olson-Grinde-O'Donnell Post 348 in DeForest decided to send a cash donation to Post 116 in Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina to assist in their hurricane relief efforts. Post Adjutant Carol Ridgely and Post Judge Advocate Bill Ridgely had a planned trip to North Carolina and volunteered to hand-carry the check and present it in person. The presentation was made on Veterans Day to Post 116 Commander Dave Rossner, 1st Vice Jason Williams, and 2nd Vice Malcolm Lewis along with a letter of transmittal from Post 348 Commander Jim Skelton and a challenge coin.

Commander Dave Rossner reported, "Our post [116] has collected about 25,000 pounds of items that we have donated. We are working with U.S. Veterans Corps to get the supplies to where they need to go. They have been flying in supplies out of Raeford NC airport and also have several 18 wheelers taking in the heavier items like water and dog food. The donations are



(L to R) Carol Ridgely, Bill Ridgely, Dave Rossner, Jason Williams, and Malcolm Lewis.

going to anyone in the hardest hit areas. We are now into what they are calling the second phase of operations, which is winter clothing, heaters, winter shoes, jackets and fuel. We have sent several people to help cook meals for the volunteers. Hot food is something that is needed to keep operations going. It has started to snow in the higher elevations."



POST 38 HURRICANE RELIEF

Appleton American Legion Post 38 was the center point of local Hurricane Relief. Several Appleton businesses, including Great Lakes Mechanical who organized the event, and



Van Ert Electric with Copenen Mechanical as partners contributed to the cause. American Legion Club 38 further provided meals and organized a cash raffle during the Friday night Fish Fry, which was used to purchase food and water for hurricane relief effort. Transportation was provided by Nelson Trucking and Big Iron Concept Trucking.

Overall, the combined support from Fox Valley contractors, community, and Post 38 members, yielded two (2) semis, or 68 pallets, of needed relief supplies.

DISTRICT 9 IN SURING

Post 283 in Suring hosts 9th District Fall Conference at Red Maple Golf Course.



SAL SQUADRON 545 FLAG APPRECIATION

SAL Squadron 545 from Mt. Calvary has been presenting flag appreciation programs to 5th grade students since 2022. In 2022 we began with presentations to 6 local schools. This fall presentations have been made to 17 schools. This program explains the history of the flag and the meaning of each fold as the flag is folded.

This program has been well received by teachers and students. The SAL, along with



several veterans, answer questions at the end of the presentation. We encourage other posts and squadrons to start this program. It is an excellent opportunity to educate stu-

dents about the flag and our military. Credit for our program goes to Mike Schmitz, Mike Mand, Mark Schneider, Earl Freund, Steve King and many others.

POST 189 9/11 CEREMONY



A wreath laying ceremony for 9/11 was put on by the Marine Corps League at Aero Park in Watertown. Placing the wreath were Legion members, Marine Corps League Commander, Gary Stueber and Watertown American Legion Post 189 Commander, Stephen Zillmer.

ARGYLE POST 251 COLOR GUARD



Argyle Post 251 provided the Color Guard for the Badger Honor Flight October 12.

COLOR GUARD IN TWO RIVERS



Combined Honor Guard, American Legion Post 165 Two Rivers and VFW Post 1248 of Two Rivers, presenting colors at Legion Post 165 Car Show Labor Day weekend.

Photo submitted by Post 165 Chaplin and Honor Guard Captain Dean Hirvela.

MARSHALL FOOTBALL GAME



American Legion Post 279 and VFW Post 6614 of Marshall present the colors at all Marshall High School football games. At the Homecoming game the students joined in with the big flag.

POST 60 SAL MEMBERS TRICK OR TREAT

For the second year, Kimberly Legion Post 60 SAL members supported the Great Pumpkin Walk in Kimberly. The Community is invited to place carved Pumpkins around the pond in Memorial Park in Kimberly. The Pumpkins are judged and prizes awarded. Last year the Post 60 SAL gave out about 600 Trick or Treat bags. This year we gave out 1,200 packs of cookies. We just had to take a picture of these young ladies in their Halloween costumes while at our booth.





POST 11 GREEN BAY AT PACKERS GAME



Green Bay American Legion Post 11 Color Guard presented colors at the Packer/Texans game on October 20. They were honored to get their picture taken with Green Bay Packers President Mark Murphy. Kneeling: Rick Phillips and CJ Kellner. Standing: Rick Young, John Dyer, George Heck, Jerry Pludeman, Packer President Mark Murphy, Keith Garland, Len Madison, John Wolfe, Jim Dworak, Tom Herber, and Tom Salantine.

Photo taken by Aaron Popkey.

SAL PLAYGROUND DONATION



Post 521 Fox Lake Sons of the American Legion donated \$500 for playground equipment at Causen Park. This donation was presented to the Mayor of Fox Lake.

2ND DISTRICT HOLDS FALL CONFERENCE



The 2nd District held their Annual Fall Conference on October 26 in Richfield. Special guest speakers were: Past National Commander Dan Seehafer, Department Commander Jim Johnson, President/CEO War Memorial Center-Milwaukee Dan Buttery and American Legion Post 455 Commander Craig Ellis. LEFT: War Memorial CEO Dan Buttery and 2nd District Commander Charlie Young. LEFT CENTER: 2nd District SAL Commander Dave Hodgson. RIGHT CENTER: PNC Seehafer. RIGHT: (L-R) Department Commander Jim Johnson, 5th District Commander Craig Ellis, 2nd District Commander Charlie Young and Department Chaplain Dennis Jaeger.

LAKE MILLS FALL FESTIVAL



On October 6 at Commons Park in Lake Mills, in conjunction with the Lake Mills Fall Festival of Color, the Lake Mills American Legion Post 67 had put up an informational booth with manuals, fliers, and other memorabilia pertaining to The American Legion and Sons of the American Legion. Pictured are Andy Werner, Commander Larry Sauer and Post Adjutant Steve Cabral.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



The 3rd District award for the Centennial Celebration of Cross Plains Post 245 was presented on September 26 by DVC Jerry Hook. From left, Legionnaires Gary Itten, Bill Statz, DVC Jerry Hook, and Joe Hodgson. *Photo submitted by Morris Sadicario, Dane County Council Historian.*

3RD DISTRICT HOSTS FALL CONFERENCE

On Saturday, October 19, the 3rd District held its Fall Conference at the Verona Legion Post. A big part of the Conference is to the Posts that did outstanding on their Membership. Pictured are the following Posts that received an award at the Conference. First Posts to 100% were Potosi Post 473, Argyle Post 251, Waunakee Post 360 and Stoughton Post 59. The Post Retention Awards went to Potosi Post 473, DeForest Post 348, Waunakee Post



360 and Stoughton Post 59. The Highest Growth in Membership went to Marshall Post 279, Platteville Post 42, McFarland Post 534 and Stoughton Post 59. Grant County was the first County to become a 100% and they were

awarded the Traveling Trophy. Dignitaries present for the awards from the right are: State Vice Commander Jerry Hook, State Commander Jim Johnson and National Vice Commander Roger Mathison.

CLINTONVILLE FALL FRENZY SCARE CROW CONTEST



Veterans Memorial Post 63 in Clintonville participated in the 1st Annual Fall Frenzy Scare Crow contest sponsored by Clintonville Chamber. Voting was done by collecting likes on the Clintonville Chamber's Facebook page. With 316 likes, Post 63 won the Fall Frenzy Scare Crow contest travelling Trophy. Those present for the Trophy presentation were Commander Rick Klotzbuecher, Adjutant Peter Bodoh, 1st Vice Commander Jim Carmody, Service Officer Holly Lang and Holly's Granddaughter Cora Lang who helped with drawing the face and design.

POST 283 HONORS 50 YEARS



Suring Post 283 Commander Christensen celebrates with two members of the Post that have 50+ years of continuous membership each, Jay Tousey and Corky Flynn. Flynn also celebrated his 95th birthday.

POST 313 HONORS 50 YEARS



At the October 2024 monthly meeting of the Black Earth American Legion Mickelsons-Martin Post 313, David Barsness was presented with a membership certificate for his 50 years in The American Legion. L-R, Post Commander Gary Ballweg, David Barsness.



78 YEARS OF SERVICE

Thomas E. Kees American Legion Post 496 of Sherwood hosted its annual Veterans Day dinner on November 9.



Among the 28 veterans and their families in attendance was 108-year-old Clarence Zahringer. A World War II Army Medical Corps Veteran, Zahringer has the impressive distinction of being a 78-year member of the American Legion. His military service commenced in January 1942, and included 28 months serving in the European Theater. In Photo with Clarence Zahringer (L) is Post 496 Commander Jake Pompa.

Among the 28 veterans and their families in attendance was 108-year-old Clarence Zahringer. A World War II Army Medical Corps Veteran, Zahringer has the impressive distinction of being a 78-year member of the American Legion. His military service commenced in January 1942, and included 28 months serving in the European Theater. In Photo with Clarence Zahringer (L) is Post 496 Commander Jake Pompa.

NORTHWOODS COLOR GUARD



The Northwoods Color Guard posted the colors and rendered honor at the Never Forgotten Honor Flight. The Color Guard is made up of the five veterans groups that include Rhinelander American Legion Post 7.



POST 122 50 YEARS

Post 122 Phillips Commander Douglas Rasmussen presented to member Richard Heitkemper his certificate for 50 years of continuous membership at the annual Veterans Day dinner.

BABCOCK FD DONATION

On October 23, the Babcock American Legion Post 322, donated \$10,000 to the Remington Volunteer Fire Department for the fire department building addition project. The needed addition will provide decontamination facilities, which will include hot water wash-up, indoor bathroom, locker area and meeting and training room. Pictured holding the check are Past Post



322 Commander Greg Regalia and RVFD Fire Chief Rodney Brockman. Submitted by Greg Regalia, Past Commander Post 322 Babcock.



POST 477 TRUNK OR TREAT

The entire American Legion 477 St. Nazianz Family (Legion, Sons of the American Legion and Auxiliary) was represented at the Camp Sinawa Trunk or Treat. They had great fun and met lots of fun people, kids and adults alike.



Ten members of Post 360 on the November 6 Badger Honor Flight.



POST 360 HONORS

First female commander of Post 360 Waunakee, Sandy Johnson, congratulating new 2nd female commander, Betsy Mulcahy.

POST 279 FIFTH-GRADE AMERICANISM PROGRAM

Americanism program for the 5th graders at Marshall Elementary School on Nov. 8 put on by Marshall Post 279. American Legion members Scott Relitz and Pete Ponti, also Sharon Burbach Vice President of Jefferson County Auxiliary.



POST 147 HONORS 35 YEARS OF SERVICE



Medford Post 147 presents John Schafer 35 years continuous with American Legion. With John is Medford Honor Guard. John is an American Legion and VFW member.

POST 348 QUILT OF VALOR



Post 348 DeForest Comrade Bob Scheble (center) was awarded a Quilt of Valor® (QOV) by Karen Eberhardt, group leader, and Jenni Syftestad of the Verona QOV group. Bob is flanked by Post Commander Jim Skelton (left) and Judge Advocate Bill Ridgely (right). Bob's eligibility for The American Legion was earned by his service in the U. S. Navy during WWII and he is a Legion member of long standing. He is the last WWII veteran in the Post.



LEFT: SAL 3rd District Commander Seán Patchin presents membership awards for Squadron 220 (Soldiers Grove) to SAL 3rd District First Vice-Commander Alan McCormick. CENTER: SAL 3rd District Commander Seán Patchin presents membership awards for Squadron 501 (Madison) to Post 501 SAL Advisor / Squadron Finance Officer Keith Lovell and Post 501 Commander / Squadron 1st Vice-Commander Jerry Scalissi. RIGHT: SAL 3rd District Commander Seán Patchin presents membership awards for Squadron 491 to Squadron Adjutant Jim Deitelhoff.

SAL ACHIEVEMENTS RECOGNIZED IN THIRD DISTRICT

The Third District Sons of The American Legion held their 2024 Fall Conference on October 19, hosted by Squadron 385 in Verona. In addition to conducting business, three squadrons were recognized for their achievements in membership for 2024. Squadron 220 (Soldiers Grove) earned the 100% Membership Certificate, Triple Nickel Award, and Honorable

Mention for highest percent membership increase. Squadron 501 (Madison) earned the 100% Membership Certificate, 100% Membership by Legion Birthday, and Triple Nickel. They also earned Honorable Mention for Best Community Service Program. Squadron 491 (Cazenovia) earned the 100% Membership Certificate and All-time High Membership Award.

BUTTERNUT PIONEER DAYS PARADE



Len Cermak of Butternut American Legion Post 272 drove his 1953 Ford Golden Jubilee tractor pulling his 6 x 10 trailer displaying several Veteran related banners in the Butternut Pioneer Days parade on July 28, 2024.

POST 437 HONORS 13 FOR OVER 50 YEARS MEMBERSHIP

The Mazomanie Greening-Beulow American Legion Post 437 honored thirteen Korean and Vietnam military veterans for over fifty years of continuous membership. An honor banquet was held October 29 to acknowledge their service longevity totaling 719 years. John Trager holds the longest membership at 73 years. Other members and their years of post-service were: Ben Hodgson 56, Larry Reeve 56, William Ruland 56, Franklin Wahl 56, Fred Wolf 56, Dewey Buttke 54, Ron Norris 53, Rick Kindschi 52, Les Sander 52, Dan Williams 52, Harvey Short 52 and Dan Ruegsegger 51 years.

Each long-term member received a Certificate of Continuous Membership signed by



Several banquet honorees (l-r) Ben Hodgson, Fred Wolf, Dewey Buttke, Ron Norris, Post Commander Virgil Smith and Les Sander.

the National Commander Vincent Troiola, National Adjutant Don Wheeler and Post Commander Virgil Smith.

The Honors Banquet was held in historic

downtown Mazomanie at the Base Camp Café with entertainment. Chief Crooner Randy Plunkett sang many songs from the 1950s and 1960s.



Paul Fisk
Legislative
Chairman

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

The 2023-2024 Legislature is now history. They adjourned in February, the new Legislature will be sworn in on January 6, 2025. There will be 31 new members of the Legislature, 27 in the Assembly and four in the Senate.

The Senate is composed of 33 members, 18 Republicans and 15 Democrats. This will enable the Republicans to set the agenda and control the legislative process. Their numbers are insufficient to override items vetoed by the Governor. The majority party (GOP) will be able to pass legislation using only Republican votes, however, they are working with a majority of two. Power now shifts from leadership to caucus membership because of slim majority. One or two members can prevent a bill from coming to the floor. Most committees in this body will consist of five members, three Republicans and two Democrats. The exception to this is joint committees such as The Committee on Joint Finance. There are eight senators on this powerful committee, six from the

majority party (GOP) and two from the minority (DEM).

The Assembly has 99 members, 52 Republicans, 44 Democrats, three contests have not been decided. Republican leadership, which will be selected the week of November 11, will control the agenda and legislative calendar. The GOP will chair all committees and outnumber the Democrats on each committee. The Committee on Joint Finance will also have eight members from the Assembly, six Republicans and two Democrats. Assembly leadership may face challenges in agreeing on legislation, as their majority is smaller than last session. They will also have to consider the reaction of the Senate because of the slim GOP majority in that body.

The next session will be challenging. The slim majorities in both houses combined with the new members mean we will have a lot of hard work to do to accomplish our priorities. The education process will start now. We must develop relationships with the new members and pay attention to the needs of our old friends. They all will need accurate and timely information from the Veteran community.



Dennis Jaeger
Department
Chaplain

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

THE HEART IS DECEITFUL

Bruce Springsteen had a "Hungry Heart." Billy Ray Cyrus had an "Achy Breaky Heart." Toni Braxton sang "Un-Break My Heart," and the Bee Gees sang "How Can You Mend a Broken Heart". Of course, Celine Dion reminds us that the heart will go on, even if it's hungry, achy breaky, or broken.

The heart holds a special place in our culture—especially pop culture—because it represents our deepest emotions. Romantics believe that our emotions are the purest essence of who we are. Your body can be tempted. Your mind can be deceived. But your heart will never lead you astray. Or so says the plot of every romantic comedy to come out of Hollywood. So the only way to find true happiness and ultimate fulfillment in life is to (say it with me) follow your heart.

But in Jeremiah 17:9, God says, "Not so fast." There's nothing particularly noble or pure about the human heart. In fact, you'd have a hard time finding anything more deceitful or wicked. The heart is selfish. It wants what it wants, regardless of the consequences or the pain it causes others.

It doesn't have to be that way. In Ezekiel 36:26, God

tells the people of Israel, "I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart". This spiritual heart transplant changes everything. You develop a tender, responsive heart by filling your mind with God's Word, meditating on it, obeying it, and letting it change you from the inside. When your heart becomes a conduit for God's wisdom and love, it can be trusted. And it can be useful.

The psalmist David wrote, "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires" (Psalm 37:4). Taking delight in the Lord means recognizing that His ways are best. The result is a desire to make sure His will is done. When you align your life with God's will, your heart changes. It becomes more like God's. And when your prayers sync with what God wants for you, God gives you the desires of your heart.

Until God changes your heart, it will lead you astray if you try to follow it. It will deceive you into believing that it can guide you to genuine happiness and fulfillment. In reality, only God can deliver those things.

Have a HAPPY and BLESSED THANKSGIVING American Legion Family!

LEGIONNAIRES 65+ WITH AN ELIGIBLE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE OR SUPPLEMENT PLAN RECEIVE:

- ✔ \$50 initial payment upon confirming eligibility
- ✔ \$20 every 3 months of reported social activities



To see if your plan covers Grouper, please visit:

GrouperGroups.com/WI-Legion



No personal information needed to check eligibility - just your health plan name and your age!

Grouper

Call 833-445-2400 Email info@hellogrouper.com

QUILT OF VALOR IN REEDSBURG

Members of the Reedsburg Post 350 received Quilts of Valor from Barbara Sigmund of the Quilts of Valor Foundation at their annual member appreciation supper. Standing (L-R): Richard Knuth, Charles Leuth, Art Biesek, Lee Stoddard, Harlan Farber, Joe Gray, Bob Ott, William Schorer, Frank Dischler. Seated (L-R): Robert Horkan, Charles Backeberg, Dale Terrill, Walter Farber.



Julie Muhle
Department Adjutant

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

As you may have already heard, The American Legion has partnered with Grouper – a club which promotes social activity. They encourage healthy living through meaningful social connections and shared experiences. Why is this important? Building and maintaining social connections become more difficult as we age and group activities lead to longer and healthier lives! Also, being socially active falls within our Be

The One program and helps prevent suicide, encouraging people to be out and about – post meetings, coffee clutches, gym memberships, etc. The best thing is that our members 65 and older benefit!

If you are 65 and older, with an eligible Medicare advantage or supplement plan, you can receive \$50 for signing up with Grouper and then \$20 every three months just for being active! This is a great opportunity not only for our current members but for signing up NEW members!

If you haven't already checked this out, go to hellogrouper.com/al and check if your Medicare Advantage or supplement plan is one of the many qualifying plans. If it isn't now, check back later as they continue to add more plans. What information are you going to need to share? Your basic contact information (name, phone, email and zip code), your health plan information and, in some cases, if you are part of a club or group, your membership number for confirmation. Once your eligibility is confirmed, you will receive an ANNUAL payment of \$50, plus the \$20 every three months. You will receive a monthly reminder to log into your account and report your activity.

If you need assistance, please contact Grouper at 833-445-2400 or email them at info@hellogrouper.com. As this is a Grouper program, we will not be able to assist you at the Wisconsin American Legion headquarters.



James Fialkowski
Department Veterans Service Officer

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

WHAT DO I GET FOR MY MONEY?

In this holiday season of giving, family, friends, and remembrance, I wanted to let you as members know what the organization accomplishes with the dues you pay and the possible donations you make. Here in the service office, you will find our primary function falls under The American Legion pillar, "Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation" (VA&R).

How does the service office fulfill their VA&R obligation?

According to the numbers by the VA, Wisconsin American Legion representatives assisted in the receipt of over \$871 million in federal veteran benefits into the state of Wisconsin FY 2024. That works out to over \$74 million dollars a month. The range of benefits include compensation for service-connected disabilities, wartime veteran's pension for those in need, death pension, dependent indemnity compensation, home adaptation, automobile allowance, burial allowance, education, and Veteran Readiness and Employment benefits.

The number of people you helped us to assist is impressive. Our office has conducted over 32,000 actions for people. Every action works to assist at least one person. If only half of those people have a spouse, you can add another 16,000 people and if only half of those couples have one child, you can add another 8000. Conservatively speaking, your dues helped us assist over 50,000 Wisconsin veterans and their dependents.

We also help families to obtain: Temporary Financial Assistance through National level Children and Youth, Temporary Financial Assistance program, our Department Troop and Family Support Fund, headstones for veterans, apply for discharge upgrades, assisted military retirees with applications for Combat Related Special Compensation, and apply for lost awards and decorations. Additionally, we staff Veteran's Benefit Supermarkets and other Veteran Events around the state.

When you consider the activities of the service office, along with the number of veterans our hospital volunteers assist, those veterans that attend Camp American Legion, and those laid to rest under our unclaimed remains program, you can certainly appreciate that this Department of Wisconsin American Legion takes Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation very seriously.

Even if you yourself do not receive any direct benefits from the VA, a lot of veterans do get benefits, thanks to your devotion to mutual helpfulness and continued service. For this reason, you are to be commended. Thank you and may you find this seasons blessings bountiful.

FREDONIA TURNS 150

Warren Kane Post 410, Fredonia, celebrated Fredonia's 150-year anniversary with a parade. The Veterans on the Legion float are: Joe Klein, Ronald Lanser, and Michelle Graller. Also riding his motorcycle and keeping the parade in check is Richard Abegglen, Post 410 member and Fredonia Village Trustee.



POST 351 QUILTS OF HONOR

Members of Montello Post 351 were awarded Quilts of Honor at their October meeting.





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

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

OUR VISION
Giving Wisconsin Veterans the pathway to quality of life

OUR VALUES
Honor and Stewardship

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION — 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



Jim Klement
 Camp American Legion Director

June 14 of 1925, with more than 1000 people in attendance, the flag was finally raised by L. Hugo Keller, Department Commander over Camp American Legion.

“The American Legion in Wisconsin is keeping faith with the men who went west and with those who remain suffering,” Commander Keller declared as he raised the flag.

A feature of the dedication was a spectacular blessing of Camp from the tribesmen of the Flambeau Reservation in which Commander Keller, J.F. Burns (State Service Officer), and Guy Helms

(Badger Legionnaire Editor) where made honorary members of the tribe.

Fast forward to today, Camp American Legion is still in operation serving our Wisconsin veterans. While the world changes every day, the mission and purpose of Camp American Legion remains the same. President Abraham Lincoln once said, “To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan”. That is the promise that the Wisconsin American Legion and Camp American Legion are keeping to our veterans.

June 14 of 2025, I am trying to recreate the events from that day exactly 100 years prior. Please mark the date on the calendar as everyone is invited to attend. This will be a great event and something

that 100 years from now the Director of Camp American Legion will look back and have the same thoughts on how Camp is still honoring the promise that the nation has made to our veterans.

There will be many aspects of the 100-year celebration. Camp will need help with several tasks starting with preparation of the grounds and setup the week prior. The day of the event I will need parking attendants, cooks, tour guides and many others. If your post would like to help, please contact me at the number below.

“Camp American Legion, Serving Wisconsin Veterans for over 100 years”

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

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



James Bond
 WDVA Secretary-designee

WDVA SECRETARY

Greetings! By the time you read this message, the holiday season will be in full swing. Yesterday was Veterans Day and I had the honor of spending the morning at our Home up in King, celebrating with the residents. Deputy Secretary Chris McElgunn filled in for me at the ceremony at the Capitol and our Division of Veterans Benefits Administrator Jeremy Lyon spoke at an American Legion Post 385 celebration in Verona. This teamwork is a great example of how working together enables us to do a better job of delivering assistance for our veterans. As I thought about it, I was struck by how lucky we are to have such committed and dedicated partners like the American Legion. WDVA is stronger because of our relationship with the Legion and the Auxiliary.

The other thing that struck me as I reflected on 2024 is on how much progress we’ve made in building stronger relationships with all our stakeholders. I was excited that I was able to complete my goal of visiting with all 72 Wisconsin County and 11 Tribal Veteran Service Offices. These meetings were so valuable and productive that I’ve made a commitment to visit them all again in the coming biennium.

During 2024 WDVA was able to make significant progress towards improving veteran mental health and preventing suicide. Thanks to Governor Evers support using ARPA funds, we’ve offered several rounds of Veteran Mental Health Grants to organizations and non-profits across Wisconsin. And in October, WDVA awarded more than \$550,000 in grants to 15 nonprofit organizations that provide financial assistance, entrepreneurship training, and other services to Wisconsin veterans and their families.

Looking forward to the coming year, we will be asking the legislature to provide the funding to continue to operate our expanded Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program, which connects Veterans struggling with issues such as mental health, suicide, homelessness, and substance use to community services.

As the result of the Governor’s ARPA investments, VORP now has 16 regional coordinators who are spread across the state, on the ground, directly offering help to veterans in their communities. The additional funds allowed us to go from 11 coordinators to 16, resulting in quicker response times and higher quality case management for veterans in need. This will be taken up when the legislature reconvenes in January. I will do my best to keep you and your leadership fully informed as we move forward through the next biennial budget process.

I hope you have a joyous Holiday season and trust that you will join me in remembering our deployed servicemembers, veterans, and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Yours in Service,

James Bond, Secretary-designee
 Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs



POST 185 GIVES TO TRAP TEAM

Brask-Fossum-Janke Post 185 Grantsburg again this year supported the Grantsburg Schools Trap Team with a financial donation. The team is comprised of junior and senior high school students who have competed in shoots throughout the state. Post Commander Michelle Marek and Past Commander Larry Ebersold are shown with team representative Floyd Drohman (center).

POST 208 TOP PERFORMER COMMENDATION

On October 1, 2024, Rio Francis Cuff Post 208 received from the Dept. of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration program headquarters in Washington, D.C. a Top Performer Commendation. The Post’s efforts are in the top 15 percent of program partners nationally. Pictured are Dale Gajdosik, the Post’s Chairperson on viewer’s left, and Terry Schraufnagel, the Post Commander. In meaningful events under Dale’s dedicated leadership the Post has recognized over 300 Vietnam-era veterans! In addition, Dale has assisted other posts and a Daughters of American Revolution chapter in starting their recognition programs.



POST 510 HAS BIG IMPACT IN HOLLANDALE



Membership in American Legion Post 510 Hollandale is only about one-tenth of its population, but it is their contribution to the community that is far greater. In addition to participating in a host of civic activities, we annually fund several college scholarships for graduating seniors from area high schools and sponsor a junior to attend Badger Boys State. These and other community outreach programs would not be possible were it not for generous community support in return: buying raffle tickets, attending our annual Memorial Day program and brat feed, and even contributing empty aluminum cans. Each year, we crush, bag, and sell over two tons to recycling centers to help fund scholarships. We like to think Hollandale Legion Post 510 is doing well while doing good things.

FLAGPOLE NOMINATION



USAF Veteran Wayne Peters was nominated by his fellow Legionnaires at Post 477 St. Nazianz for a flagpole through the Salute to Freedom Flag Pole Program. He was notified by HOOAH, WI that he was selected as a recipient of a 14-foot flagpole which was professionally installed by Fly Me Flag – Green Bay. And, as part of the program, Wayne also received a set of US and USAF flags.

Photo credit by Valdars Journal.

POST 251 AWARDS \$500 SCHOLARSHIP



Argyle Legion Post 251 held their annual appreciation picnic on August 16. We recognized members and families of the Legion, Veterans and supporters of the Post. We had a very pleasant surprise from a past Scholarship recipient.

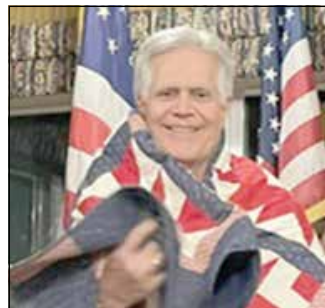
In 2020 Hannah Milliken received a \$500 scholarship from our Post to continue her education. She is the granddaughter of Post member Walt Fischer.

Hannah started her journey in 2020 to become a Registered Dental Hygienist. She started her journey attending prerequisite classes at a community college in Iowa. Knowing she would have to wait a little to get into Dental Hygiene school, she decided to go to Dental Assistant school at Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, where she graduated with a 4.0 GPA. She stated gaining dental experience before starting Dental Hygiene school was very helpful, she was able to apply what she learned in the real world in school. Hannah then attended Dental Hygiene school at Northcentral Technical College in Wausau where she graduated in 2024 with the honors of outstanding student and valedictorian. Hannah is now working as a Registered Dental Hygienist at a private practice in Madison. Hannah stated that she would not have been able to complete her journey without the help of the Argyle American Legion and that is why she decided to donate money to the scholarship fund to help other motivated individuals achieve their goals.

POST 360 QUILTS OF VALOR



Waunakee American Legion Post 360 hosted a Quilts of Valor presentation in July. ABOVE: Group photo includes: Sandy Johnson, Donald Kieta, Sara Essex, Bob Schwab, Betsy Mulcahy, and Gary Sawall. BELOW LEFT: Post 360 Quilt of Valor recipient Nick Mischler. BELOW RIGHT: Post 360 Quilt of Valor recipient Tom Acker.



POST 435 DONATES TO BOOK CLUB



Post 435 in Superior recently gave a donation to the Richard I. Bong Veteran Center Book Club to help the club with their community activities. Pictured are Post 435 Finance Committee members Bill Britton on the left and Del Kangas far right, giving a check for \$500 to John Gidley, Bong Center Executive Director.

DONATION TO THE BONG VETERAN CENTER



On November 1, Post 435 of Superior donated \$2,500 to the Richard I. Bong Veterans Center. Pictured are left to right, Butch Liebaert Post 435 Commander, Rafaela T. Solis Bong Center Employee, and Jason Rolfe Post 435 member. The money will be used for the Bong Center's programs and activities.



Loki

LOKI'S CORNER

Don't forget to sign up for the 2025 Midwinter Conference! There are many new training opportunities available. See information at: <https://wilegion.org/midwinter>. Be The One!



Julie Muhle
Department
Adjutant

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP

Last month I talked about the Post Membership Plan and where it is located. This is a "map" for how posts can increase their membership. It is laid out by activities per month and gives Best Practices for each month.

For example, September talks about Buddy Checks and gives a suggested call schedule, which facilitates contacting your members on a regular basis. Think about some of the groups or organizations you are a member of. Do you remain a member if you no longer find value to it? Most people do not. So how does a post overcome this? First, obtain your post's membership list. Next, based on the number of members, determine how many members your post will call each month. Then find your group of callers and make the plan happen!

Here is an example. River Falls Post 121 has over 600 members. How the heck are you going to call those members regularly?! The post decides it is going to contact their members on a quarterly basis and they found 10 members who are willing to make those calls. First, to determine how many people each of those callers is going to contact, we divide the 600 members by the 10 callers. This will give each caller 60 members to call over the quarter, or three months. Three months in a quarter or about 60 weekdays. This gives each caller one member to call per weekday! At the end of the quarter, see if you can find other callers or change the members the callers need to contact.

This is how you learn about your members and their needs and you become of value to your members. It can help boost the number of members at your post meetings or events. Your members can rally around those who need assistance with lawn mowing or house repairs or other basic needs. Your call can also Be The One call to that member who is at the lowest point of their life and can help them to get the help they need.

A reminder of where you can find the Post Membership Plan on the website at <https://wilegion.org/membership-forms-%26-info-1>.



Michelle Adams
Department
Historian

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Veterans Day. At Post 375, we celebrated by having a patriotic ceremony with members of the Legion Family, followed by sharing a meal together. We greet each other regularly, but there is something special on this day. Our genuine affection for each other is unquestionably present. It is the perfect combination of friendship, respect, and patriotism. The

American Legion is our home.

As 2024 comes to a close, membership goals must remain steady. Our programs, Buddy Checks, and Be The One are especially vital as we head into the holiday season. Upcoming events can be found on wilegion.org, under the Resources tab, in the calendar. These events include Be The One days, by contacting members with a Buddy Check; Freezin' for a Reason on Dec 6-7; Midwinter Conference January 16-19; and Spring Meetings. Also, attending County meetings offers an opportunity to join your neighboring Posts and ideally participate in their events.

As Department Historian, I have seen firsthand how varied and unique Posts, Counties, and Districts find creative ways to implement our values and goals. In 2025, we can have a new momentum and optimize the Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion. Each line of the preamble challenges us to advance in our individual goals, and to continue our service and duty to our country.

May you have a wonderful holiday season and happy new year!

Michelle Adams
Department Historian

The Last Bugle



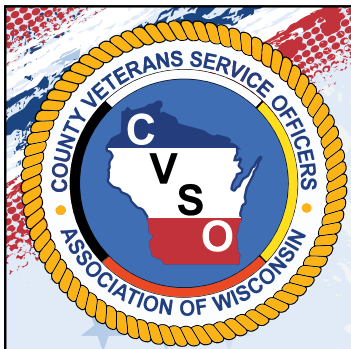
KEY
 WWI-World War I
 V-Vietnam
 G/L-Grenada/Lebanon
 P-Panama
 GWOT-Global War on Terrorism
 WWII-World War II
 K-Korea
 PG-Persian Gulf

3 Antigo		24 Lake Geneva	
Perry L. Scheel	V	Bryan A. Cushman	K
8 Waukesha		Michael McBride	V
Rosemary X. Nader	WWII	26 Baraboo	
Richard D. Schulz	WWII	Clifford J. Marquardt	V
Ralph W. Schlei	WWII	Ken Robenolt	K
9 Wisconsin Rapids		32 Menomonie	
Gaylord V. Johnson	WWII	Byron D. Anderson	V
10 Wausau		35 Evansville	
Jim E. Francken	V	Donald E. Moore	K
Elgart Baumann Jr.	V	36 West Bend	
Donald Feit	K	Martin Martinelli	G/L
Robert Knishka	K	Robert L. Pfeifer	V
11 Green Bay		Robert Swanson	PG
Francis J. Hedstrom	K	38 Appleton	
David C. Junion		Robert L. Francis	K
William F. Hathaway Sr.	K	Arden A. Mattice	WWII
12 Spooner		39 Marinette	
Tim Brabec	V	William G. Boerner	WWII
Jack D. Lucius	K	40 Bangor	
13 Richland Center		Wayne S. Solberg	WWII
John A. Surrem	K	42 Platteville	
David A. Bartz	V	Gerald J. Lolwing	V
16 Cudahy		44 Wabeno	
Eugene Schlecht	WWII	Patrick T. Harrison	V
Daniel R. Furdek	V	46 Merrill	
Joseph J. Chovanec	WWII	Richard Dockstader	V
17 Arcadia		Reinold F. Lenz	V
Paul T. Andre	V	Dennis A. Schmidt	V
Robert J. Kupietz	V	48 Beloit	
19 Hartford		James Jiannacopoulos	K
Gilbert R. Brown Sr.	K	49 Bayfield	
Lee A. Jones	K	Timothy Smith	V
Charles E. Linstrom	K	53 Eau Claire	
20 Waterford		Richard Sparks	V
Richard E. Wanke	V	James J. Rodel	WWII

54 Marshfield		118 Thorp	
Richard Kopper	V	Richard Szymanski	K
58 Hurley		120 West Allis	
Robert L. Morzenti	V	Norbert Gableman	WWII
David P. Mullard	PG	Arthur C. Christl	WWII
59 Stoughton		Robert E. Manske	V
Ron A. Leikness	V	121 River Falls	
Robert D. Outhouse		Howard D. Nelson	
Francis Learn	V	126 Brillion	
Carroll Ehrke	V	Gerald L. Miller	V
60 Kimberly		Jeffrey L. McGlin	PG
Carl J. Wolfinger Jr.	V	Conrad L. Kopitzke	V
Virgil Wollenberg	K	139 Coloma	
63 Clintonville		Richard E. Mahal	K
Dale W. Huebner	V	141 New Glarus	
Roberta C. Stickney	V	Ron Pierce	V
64 Ladysmith		143 St. Croix Falls	
Robert J. Tomaszewski	V	Gerald M. Wyatt	K
67 Lake Mills		Curt Liljeborg	V
Timothy W. Finn	K	Harold G. Richardson	K
71 Pewaukee		146 Beaver Dam	
Berwyn M. Gosseck	WWII	John R. Kotek	K
73 Neillsville		Louis Otto	
Joseph Urban	WWII	149 Sheboygan Falls	
77 Chippewa Falls		David Specht	V
James A. Harings	V	153 Pittsville	
William E. Peterson Jr.	V	Burton Iverson	WWII
80 New Richmond		155 Westby	
Robert M. Condon	WWII	Leroy E. Wang	V
82 Port Washington		Keith Tainter	K
Julian N. Rogers	K	159 Cadott	
Ronald J. Schowalter	WWII	Eugene Bell	K
84 Monroe		171 Union Grove	
Kenneth L. Gratz	V	Vernon H. Christensen	V
Willis J. Kohlhaugen	WWII	172 North Freedom	
89 Minocqua		Gary R. Meske	V
Stanley R. Morning	K	173 Whitewater	
George Keech	V	Lee S. Murray	K
La Vern A. Reigel	K	179 Chetek	
91 Oconomowoc		Quentin E. Thompson	
Dennis Williams	K	Robert G. Newman	V
Thomas E. Brunner	K	182 Park Falls	
Alexander Macgillis	K	James R. Gavin	V
Roger D. Johnson	V	Thomas R. Herbst	V
98 Cumberland		Dorothy G. Parker	WWII
Aaron Knight	V	185 Grantsburg	
100 Sparta		Kenneth L. Johnson	
Richard B. Wright	K	Hartley M. Hedberg	
104 Cuba City		187 Wisconsin Dells	
John E. Melssen	K	John Sharpee	V
110 New Lisbon		193 Batavia, Beechwood, Boltonville	
Albert Rogers III	V	Ellis Krahn	K
112 Stanley		197 Brodhead	
Fred J. Wisniewski	K	Thaxter E. Douglas Jr.	WWII
John Saunders	V	Roger Tuscan	V
113 Mount Horeb		199 Reedsville	
Grace Schroeder	V	Elroy V. Kocian	V
117 Shawano		201 Tomah	
Lyle E. Hagen	V	Raymond Frederickson	PG
Leonard B. Prah	WWII	Timothy D. Wolter	V
David A. Krause	V	James J. Blado	V

204 Ellsworth		284 La Crosse	
Bruce G. Robinson	K	Kenneth G. Spencer	WWII
Lawrence Bjork	V	370 Wild Rose	
206 Wonewoc		Gerald E. Mankowski	V
Lawrence Hagemann	K	372 Forestville	
209 Orfordville		Richard Maurer	K
Dennis A. Craddick	V	Roger Patza	V
212 Barron		375 Mukwonago	
Ralph Feldhacker	K	Philip R. Jones	V
216 Lodi		376 Fall Creek	
Earl Teela	V	Bennett I. Green	K
218 Hayward		377 Elcho	
David E. McPeak	V	Elmer Palmer	K
Stanley J. Nauseda	K	379 Birchwood	
220 Soldiers Grove		John Jilek	V
Jeffrey T. Taylor	PG	William J. Burrows	WWII
221 Osceola		Steven Baker	K
Lewis L. Ingram	V	Donald R. Bergstrom	K
225 Shell Lake		Thomas Johnston	V
Douglas D. Downs	V	Howard M. Witham	V
230 De Pere		385 Verona	
Ron Vanlanen	V	Rocco Ceniti	K
231 Blair		401 Cambria	
Lloyd E. Mueller	WWII	Lee E. Barden	V
234 Omro		406 Milwaukee	
Darryl L. Schmidt	V	Gerald L. Darnell	K
236 Algoma		412 Belgium	
Mike A. Braemer	V	Eugene J. Walsh	K
237 Footville		Francis A. Ansay	K
Claude Eakins	K	Ron Telega	K
238 Greenwood		416 Greendale	
Stanley Pernic	V	Francis J. Jennik	WWII
240 Baldwin		Roger J. Myhre	K
Donald C. Munger	WWII	Sandra A. Schueppel	V
245 Cross Plains		Daniel R. Baker	
Lee S. Mayrack	V	Erwin H. Matt	WWII
254 Milltown		420 Hustisford	
Patrick G. Ellis	V	Michael Murphy	V
Tom Steppert	V	James E. Gronowski	V
258 Little Chute		Alex B. Zerbst	PG
Bruce A. Schommer	K	Robert A. Ehrlich	V
Wesley N. Newhouse	K	Richard R. Elsinger	K
Lester Winius	K	422 Highland	
260 Deerfield		Richard Hebggen	K
Anthony V. Kingswan	V	Norbert L. Klar	K
262 Luxemburg		Alfred Michek Jr.	V
Lary M. Stahl	V	434 Oak Creek	
Leo P. Gomand	V	Richard A. Moser	V
263 New London		Gary M. Schultz	V
John W. Pieper	V	435 Superior	
272 Butternut		James E. Mertes	K
Robert J. Hamann	V	440 Clinton	
273 Grand Marsh		Bruce L. Hahn	V
Donald Evans	V	449 Brookfield	
274 Rib Lake		Warren T. Sommer	V
Robert Melaski	K	Wasil R. Romance	WWII
280 Coleman		Lawrence Decker	K
Steve Lentz	V	Donald J. Groff	WWII
Adrian Ste. Marie	K	451 Boulder Junction	
282 Markesan		Charles A. Jury	V
Ray Berowski	V	Harry J. Kaczmarek	K
Robert Kelm	K	454 Mt. Calvary	
		Ronald H. Entringer	V

Keith Trowbridge	V	Ken Braun	V
370 Wild Rose		455 Milwaukee	
Gerald E. Mankowski	V	James W. Beckum	WWII
372 Forestville		461 Pembine	
Richard Maurer	K	Don Z. Reinertsen	WWII
Roger Patza	V	470 Saukville	
375 Mukwonago		David A. Karraker	V
Philip R. Jones	V	Norbert J. Krautkramer	
376 Fall Creek		471 Hatley	
Bennett I. Green	K	Adam G. Wanta	K
377 Elcho		474 Milwaukee	
Elmer Palmer	K	David Walden	V
379 Birchwood		481 Madison	
John Jilek	V	Harold S. Rebholz	K
William J. Burrows	WWII	482 Bagley	
Steven Baker	K	William D. Baures	V
Donald R. Bergstrom	K	486 Jackson	
Thomas Johnston	V	Myron Philipps	K
Howard M. Witham	V	495 Sussex	
385 Verona		Gerald E. Klotz	V
Rocco Ceniti	K	499 Gordon	
401 Cambria		Arvey L. Lucas	K
Lee E. Barden	V	501 Madison	
406 Milwaukee		Wayne Ringquist	
Gerald L. Darnell	K	511 Ridgeland	
412 Belgium		Robert Moen	V
Eugene J. Walsh	K	512 Shiocton	
Francis A. Ansay	K	Donald Dewhurst	
Ron Telega	K	William Conrad	
416 Greendale		518 Green Bay	
Francis J. Jennik	WWII	James J. Klenke	P
Roger J. Myhre	K	519 Stetsonville	
Sandra A. Schueppel	V	Bob Gebert	V
Daniel R. Baker		523 Abrams	
Erwin H. Matt	WWII	William Moody	WWII
420 Hustisford		531 Herbster and Port Wing	
Michael Murphy	V	William Draeger	V
James E. Gronowski	V	532 Fifield	
Alex B. Zerbst	PG	Ludwig F. Miller II	V
Robert A. Ehrlich	V	John D. Severt Sr.	K
Richard R. Elsinger	K	Charles A. Gibbs	V
422 Highland		534 McFarland	
Richard Hebggen	K	Kenneth J. Frederick	K
Norbert L. Klar	K	537 Milwaukee	
Alfred Michek Jr.	V	Donald R. Schmitt	K
434 Oak Creek		540 Haugen	
Richard A. Moser	V	Ervin Samshal	V
Gary M. Schultz	V	543 Plover	
435 Superior		O. Scott Halverson	V
James E. Mertes	K	544 Twin Lakes	
440 Clinton		Michael Wojcik	V
Bruce L. Hahn	V	Edward M. Osborn	V
449 Brookfield		551 Beetown	
Warren T. Sommer	V	Allan V. Moore	K
Wasil R. Romance	WWII	2930 Portage	
Lawrence Decker	K	Howard Nissen	V
Donald J. Groff	WWII	Allen Adams	V
451 Boulder Junction		Luther Hildebrandt	
Charles A. Jury	V	Thomas J. Donovan	K
Harry J. Kaczmarek	K	Frederic C. Stair	V
454 Mt. Calvary		Albert L. Jilek	K
Ronald H. Entringer	V	Theodore Erickson	K



County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin

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

Your local Veteran Advocates, serving you since 1935



WISCONSIN



December 2024

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

alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

The official publication of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

www.amlegionauxwi.org

MEMBERSHIP

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608-745-0124

2025 Membership Totals – 65.18%



District	Goal %
4	76.60%
2	70.30%
3	69.31%
9	68.14%
12	65.52%
6	64.96%
10	63.35%
11	62.06%
8	61.31%
7	58.94%
1	58.24%
5	53.85%

(as of 11/13/2024)

Thank you for all of your hard work with membership! Wisconsin continues to do very well within National and the Central Division. Stay focused on the road ahead. This is the time of the year when we start to concentrate a little bit more on recruiting, while still keeping a pulse on renewals. Recruiting for new members doesn't have to be a struggle – there are many opportunities.

Think of all the non-members who hold events at your post throughout the year. There's a good chance that many of them may be able to join the ALA. Make sure to have applications available and consider marketing opportunities (bathrooms are great places to advertise). There are many poster templates available on the National website. Log into *My Auxiliary Member* portal and go to resources.

Meet with your post commander and compare membership rosters. Look for membership opportunities to help grow the entire American Legion Family. Did a Legionnaire recently have a new granddaughter? Send them a congratulations card with a membership application inside. Ask to attend a Legion meeting and invite the commander to attend your unit meeting. The more exposure you have increases your opportunities. Don't forget... male spouses of veterans can join the ALA as well! You'll find many resources and ideas for recruitment on the ALA Department website *Membership Page*.

CENTRAL DIVISION

As of November 14, 2024

Department	Total	Goal	% of Goal
Iowa	11,562	17,857	64.75%
Wisconsin	10,646	16,514	64.47%
Indiana	21,798	40,119	54.33%
Ohio	18,525	34,719	53.36%
Michigan	15,360	28,792	53.35%
Illinois	10,345	20,083	51.51%
Missouri	4,027	8,114	49.63%
Kansas	4,404	9,189	47.93%
West Virginia	2,306	4,923	46.84%
Total	98,973	180,310	54.89%

Currently there are 485 American Legion posts in our state compared to 345 American Legion Auxiliary units. Right there alone is an opportunity for growth! Is there a post in your area that does not have an auxiliary unit? These posts are lacking the vital services that an Auxiliary can provide to veterans, military members and their families. Learn more about chartering a new unit on the ALA National website under *How to Organize a New Unit*.

Auxiliary units that already have an American Legion post often overlook opportunities for seeking additional members right at their post homes. For every Legionnaire, there's a good possibility of two Auxiliary members (possible spouse and/or daughter/granddaughter).

THE 100% CLUB

Congratulations to the units below who have achieved 100% or better in membership!

#401 Cambria	#25 Odanah
#83 Sheboygan	#21 Kenosha
#348 DeForest	#370 Wild Rose
#410 Fredonia	#208 Rio
#478 Saint Cloud	#520 Vesper
#464 Land O'Lakes	#503 Dane
#107 Mosinee	#233 Waterloo
#227 Spring Valley	#123 Owen
#415 Milwaukee	#65 Two Rivers
#1 Milwaukee	#267 New Auburn
#372 Forestville	#402 Washington Island
#108 Clear Lake	



LEFT: Department 1st VP Amy Luft, CDNVP Rosemarie Hauck, President Becky Mueller. RIGHT: Becky Mueller, Cedarburg Unit 288 Poppy Princess Clara Brissman, and Rosemarie Hauck.

THANK YOU, WISCONSIN!

Central Division National Vice President Rosemarie Hauck conducted her official visit to Wisconsin in October. During her visit, she toured the Poppy Shop at the War Memorial Center, enjoyed a traditional Wisconsin fish fry at Oak Creek Post 434, attended the ALAIN the Know Conference in Cedarburg, and welcomed veterans home from an Honor Flight thanks to arrangements by Amy Luft.

Becky,

I do not know enough words to express my appreciation for the kindness shown to me during my visit to the Department of Wisconsin.

It was good to see old friends yet meet new ones. Please give my thanks to the entire membership of Wisconsin.

May God continue to bless and keep you as you travel for the betterment of Veterans, Military and their families. ~ Rosemarie

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Article shared by Brenda Tryba, Dual Member of Post/Unit 179.

Submitted by Margaret Larson, Past 10th District President.

Do you know me? It amuses me to think how the ALA spends so much time looking for new members - when I was there all the time. Do you even remember me?

I'm the person who came to every meeting and volunteer activity, but nobody paid attention to me. I tried several times to be friendly but everyone seemed to have their own friends to talk to. I sat among some unfamiliar faces several times, but they didn't pay much attention to me. In fact, they looked at me like I should not be sitting at their table.

When I joined the ALA, I hoped the Unit President would ask me to volunteer on one of the committees. I wanted to volunteer, to somehow participate and contribute. I would have washed dishes if I had been asked. But no one did.

Finally, because of illness, I missed a meeting. The next month no one asked me where I had been. I guess it didn't matter very much whether I was there or not. So, when the next event came, I just stayed home.

Do you know me? You might say I am a good person. I hold a responsible job. I love God, my community and my country.

Do you know who else I am? I'm the member who will probably never again participate in a unit activity. And someday soon, I'll wonder what reason I have to renew my membership in the ALA.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The ALA Staff wish everyone a very joyous and peaceful holiday season. Please keep our troops and their families in your prayers, especially those separated by deployment.

~Bonnie D., Linda, Carrie, Andrea, Sue and Bonnie J.~

The ALA HQ office will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Poppy Shop operations will resume after the New Year.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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

“And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”
 — Colossians 3:14

Charity: Love of God and men; an act or feeling of generosity; the giving of aid to the poor; an institution engaged in relief of the poor; leniency in judging others.

These are dictionary definitions of charity. For some, it could mean making contributions to a cause they believe in, either giving time or money. For some, it could mean giving someone a “break” when judging them, a “second chance.” For others, it could mean directly doing something to help someone in need. What does it mean to you?

During this holiday season, there is much focus on giving gifts to each other. Do you give gifts without expecting something in return? Gifts are a wonderful expression of love and charity, but I believe the most important things we can give are not “things”, but giving of ourselves, without expecting anything in return. This can be giving your time to help someone. It could be making a call (Buddy Checks), spending time with someone, taking someone to an appointment or event, or helping a caregiver.

Many members of the American Legion Family are great at living the true meaning of charity by volunteering and giving of both their time and money to help others. This is not limited to, but focused on veterans, active-duty military, their families and communities, giving from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you all!

Music:

“Give A Little Bit”

– by Richard Davies & Roger Hodgson

Oh, give a little bit of your love to me, I'll give a little bit of my love to you.

There's so much that we need to share, so send a smile and show you care.

Request:

Please help me make a very special Prayer Book for President Becky Mueller this year by sending me prayers, poems and inspirational pieces. They can be original or from another source; something that touches or inspires you. Please give the author, person sending and their Unit and District. They can be sent to me by email (djensen20@gmail.com) or mail to: Donna Jensen, 6936 N. 86th St., Milwaukee, WI 53224.

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

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

Reminder: Poppy orders are due by December 15, 2024. Orders received after that date will incur an additional processing fee.

The ALA will be hosting a session at the Legion's Midwinter Conference in Appleton on Saturday, January 18, 2025. The session will include leadership and report writing workshops, a junior activities demonstration, ALA Badger Girls State information, legislative update, strategic planning discussion, and service projects. Please bring socks, full-size shampoos, conditioners, body lotions, mouthwashes, and supplies to make Valentine's Day cards for the Wisconsin Veterans Homes. There will also be a presentation from the

UW MIA Recovery & Identification Project for the entire Legion Family on Saturday afternoon. Anyone interested in attending the Midwinter Conference must register through The American Legion (\$25 before January 2 or \$30 after that).

The national organization will mail the final 2025 dues renewal notices on February 1st to anyone whose dues have not been paid by December 31. If you receive a renewal notice but thought your dues were paid, please contact your Unit Membership Chairman to ensure they were submitted to department. Dues are not considered “paid” until they have been **processed by Department Headquarters**. The February renewal notices will instruct members to send their dues directly to department to ensure they are processed in a timely manner. Members may also pay dues to their unit or use a debit/credit card to pay online (www.ALForVeterans.org) or by phone at 317-569-4570, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State (ALABGS) will be held June 15-20, 2025. The reservation fee of \$500/delegate is due by January 31, 2025. As prices for everything have escalated over the last few years, so has the cost to run the program. For those who want to do more, please check out the many volunteer opportunities at www.alabgs.org. Thank you to everyone who supports ALABGS!

Unit Annual Year-End Report forms were mailed to unit presidents in October. Members are reminded to track their volunteer hours and money spent in support of ALA programs to ensure they are included in the unit's totals. Every unit should submit a report by April 15, 2025 and acknowledge their members for all the hard work accomplished throughout the year. Department program chairmen use this information to prepare their annual reports for the national organization and the impact numbers are reported to Congress.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

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

Morgan Johnsen
 Department Vice Chairman

Please encourage your Juniors to attend a National Junior meeting! The Central Division meeting is in Des Moines, Iowa, on January 25. Bring your Juniors to participate, while you attend Mission Training. New for this year, **young SAL members can attend**, too! Junior and SAL attendees must be ages 8-17 and must have a chaperone to sign the attendee in/out of the meeting. Cost is \$70 which includes lunch and a t-shirt. You can register at <https://www.legion-aux.org/meetings/national-junior-meetings/>.

Department Juniors kicked off the year with a fantastic Fall Conference at King Veterans Home on October 12. Over 20 Junior and Senior Auxiliary members started the day by playing Bingo with the residents. Friendship bracelet prizes were a big hit for all! After a business meeting and elections, everyone buckled down to make dozens of tray favors for King residents for both the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The Juniors also began planning a special presentation they will be giving at the Midwinter Conference on Saturday, January 18. Honorary Department Junior Officers were also elected, and they will hold their title through the Junior Spring Conference in 2025.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions (or ideas!) about Junior activities.

HONORARY DEPARTMENT JUNIOR OFFICERS

President	Lindsey Stiff	Unit 6	District 8
Vice President	Virginia Calteux	Unit 416	District 4
Secretary	Everly Blader	Unit 317	District 8
Chaplain	Maddie Drewek	Unit 416	District 4
Sergeant at Arms	Shine Dickerson	Unit 482	District 3
Sergeant at Arms	Luna Lee	Unit 482	District 3



Pictured (l-r): Maddie Drewek, Junior Activities Vice Chairman Morgan Johnsen, Shine Dickerson, Virginia Calteux, Department President Rebecca Mueller, Lindsey Stiff, Junior Activities Chairman Christine Johnsen, Luna Lee, Allison Quist. Not pictured, Everly Blader.

ALABGS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Are you an ALA Badger Girls State Alumna?

If so, please send a short biography (300-350 words) about your journey since attending ALABGS to deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org by January 20, 2025. We would love to share your story as we have space available. Tell us how ALABGS impacted your life – the friendships you made, careers you chose, and what you're doing today. Please send a high-resolution photo in jpg format to include in the Spotlight.



POPPY REMINDER!

2025 Poppy Orders are due by **December 15, 2024**. Orders received after December 15 will incur an additional processing fee.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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

"We cannot always build the future of our youth but we can build our youth for the future." ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt.

When I read this quote it says to me, this is what the ALA Children and Youth (C&Y) program is about!

ALA C&Y promotes programs that protect, care for and support children and youth, especially those of our military and veterans. Work collaboratively with the American Legion Family to make an even bigger difference. Every dollar and hour donated is well spent!

The top four focus areas requested by National Headquarters for the 2024-25 year include:

1. Good Deed Award: *Watch for children's good deeds. Submit nominations.*
2. Youth Hero Award: *One award submitted to date. Submit more nominations.*
3. Public Relations and Positive Image Proclamation: *Participate in WIPR Chats to learn how.*
4. The American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation.

Units are encouraged to submit nominations

for the Good Deed and Youth Hero Awards. Watch for nominations through schools, churches, girl/boy scouts, and social media. Awards are presented all year to recognize the heroism and helpfulness of youths under the age of 18.

- **Good Deed Award Eligibility:** The youth must have donated time and/or money for a worthy cause and served as a great example of community service.
- **Youth Hero Award Eligibility:** The individual must have demonstrated a physical act of valor and served as an inspirational role model for the organization and the community.
- **Submit unit nominations** using the online form on the national website and notify the Department Chairman of the submission.

The American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation (CWF) contributes to the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual welfare of children and youth through dissemination of knowledge about research, studies, surveys, projects, or by supporting programs and activities benefiting the welfare of children and youth. Contributions may be made using a General Fund Suggested Donation form.

Veterans & Family Assistance Fund: Donations are used to assist dependent children of Wisconsin veterans. Contributions may be taken from the Poppy and/or the General Fund.

BOWLING

Jenni Syftestad
Bowling Chairman/Tournament Mgr.
608-845-7857
syftes@chorus.net

If you are once-a-year bowler, dust off that bowling ball and join us in Madison for a fun-filled weekend at the annual American Legion Auxiliary's 9-pin Bowling Tournament on April 12-13.

Verona Unit 385 will host this year's tournament at Ten Pin Bowling Lanes. The registration form and tournament details will be mailed to teams that have bowled in our tournaments, will be in the December unit mailing, and posted on the website. Please register a team today! Entry forms are due to Bowling Chairman/Tournament Manager Jenni

Syftestad no later than March 15, 2025. Questions? Contact Jenni at home or email, please put WALASBA Tournament in the subject line of email messages.

Encourage your unit to form a bowling team – you can mix with other units in your area but make sure all entry forms are mailed at the same time. To be eligible for this tournament, each bowlers' 2025 membership dues must be paid and recorded at department headquarters. Entry forms will not be accepted until all bowlers' dues are received at headquarters.

Have you ever thought about sponsoring an Auxiliary bowling tournament? This tournament is a great fundraiser for units. Get your Post to help out – make it an American Legion Family event. The 2026 tournament will be in Wausau.

The WALASBA Committee hope to see you in Madison in April.

WISCONSIN ALA STATE BOWLING ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL 9-PIN TAP TOURNAMENT
APRIL 12 & 13, 2025





Ten Pin Bowling Lane
 6285 Nesbitt Road
 Madison, WI 53719
 608-845-1010
 Hosted by Unit 385 – Verona

CONTACT INFORMATION
 Jenni Syftestad
 Tournament Manager
 syftes@chorus.net

EVENTS	SQUAD TIMES	
Double – Singles	Saturday, 11 am or 2 pm	Entry Closing Date ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MARCH 15, 2025
Team (4-Person)	Sunday, 9 am	
All Events		


MILWAUKEE COUNTY CONFERENCE OF UNITS
 Invites all Legion Family Members and Guests



The 96th Annual George Washington Luncheon
Presidents Day
Monday, February 17, 2025

Meyers Family Restaurant
4260 S 76th Street, Greenfield, WI

Social Hour: 11 AM • Opening Ceremonies: 11:45 AM • Lunch: Noon
Cost is \$30.00 per person



Come and celebrate our first President - George Washington our Veterans and the American Legion Auxiliary

For information contact Laura Calteux, 414-379-2943

Deadline for reservations is February 8, 2025
 Detach here and return lower portion

GEORGE WASHINGTON LUNCHEON REGISTRATION

UNIT NAME & NUMBER _____

NAME OF EACH PERSON ATTENDING: Auxiliary, Legion, SAL, Guest

UNIT CONTACT & PHONE _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: # OF RESERVATIONS _____ X \$30.00 = _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MCCU
 SEND TO: Laura Calteux, 7012 W Squire Ave, Greenfield, WI 53220
Reservation deadline: FEBRUARY 8, 2025 —NO WALKINS!!

2025 ALA DAILY SWEEPSTAKES

2025 Daily Sweepstakes entry forms have been mailed. If you want additional entry forms, please call department headquarters. Only original entry forms will be accepted.

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

The last day to enter is December 31, 2024. Official sweepstakes rules are posted on the department website.

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

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ALREADY RESPONDED.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sandy Mack
 Department Chair
 smack0555@gmail.com

The purpose of the Community Service program is to mobilize the American Legion Family, the veteran and military community, and the general population of the community to provide services directed to veterans, active-duty service members, and their families.

This program includes development, implementation and monitoring of community service activities that promote economic security and assists veterans, active-duty service members and their families, and homeless veterans while positioning the ALA as a one stop shop organization to assist them in meeting their needs. Auxiliary units should encourage the public to assist in this endeavor.

December brings a time when friends and family unite. You could ring bells at your local stores; shop for the elderly; deliver meals on wheels; organize craft fairs, food/clothing/toy drives; offer gift wrapping; or hold a chili dump or cookie sale.

January – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, observed on the third Monday of January, this is a federal holiday to honor the life and legacy of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. who brought hope and healing to America. Martin Luther King Jr. was the leader of the civil rights movement making the way for equality for both men and women of color. This day is also known as the “National Day of Service.” This is a time for people to give back to their communities.

National Day of Service Opportunities are out there every day and everywhere, to provide community service.

Volunteer to help a neighbor, have an operation “Warm Coat” drive, invite the local TV stations and newspaper to your events. Work at a food bank, help in building homes for Habitat for Humanity. No matter what you do or when you do it you are always appreciated for your kindness.

Remember to track your hours!

ALA UNIT 243: CHILI ANYONE?

CHILI ANYONE? — Members of ALA Unit 243 in Plymouth held a Chili Benefit with raffles and baked goods, which raised \$1,322 in funds for Veterans.



ALA UNIT 501: HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 501 in Madison made 100 washcloth bags filled with 14 personal items, a Poppy, an American Flag, and a double heart cut out with the phrase “ServingHeart to Heart” printed on them. Angie Nickles, President of Madison Stand Down, chaired this event and was extremely thankful for ALA Unit 501’s donations and support. The Stand Down included a breakfast and resource booths manned by advisors from different agencies to assist Veterans.



INDIVIDUAL AWARD NOMINATIONS

Do you know someone who deserves special recognition?
 Consider one of these opportunities:

Unit Member of the Year:

- Due to Leadership Chair Teresa Isensee by March 15, 2025.
- Recognizes those serving at the unit level who exemplify the values and ideals of the ALA and whose accomplishments significantly impact the program work in their units. It is open to senior members in good standing who are not in a leadership role higher than unit president.
- See Leadership program for details.

Junior Member of the Year:

- Due to Junior Activities Chair Christine Johnsen by March 15, 2025.
- Recognizes a Junior member who is at least in 8th grade or 8th-grade equivalent who actively participates in ALA Junior activities.
- See Junior Activities program for details.

Mentor of the Year:

- Due to Past Presidents Parley (PPP) Chair Joanie Dickerson by May 15, 2025.
- Recognizes a member who takes personal interest in the future leaders of this organization, supports the American Legion Family, has a history of being involved at multiple levels of the organization, and leads by example.
- See the PPP program for details.

Salute to Servicemember:

- Due to NHQ by June 1, 2024 (online application).
- Recognizes an enlisted servicemember currently serving in the US Armed Forces. One servicemember from each branch will be invited to attend the 2025 National Convention in Tampa Bay, Florida. The nominating form, along with all supporting documentation, must be submitted online by June 1, 2025.
- See the National Security program for details.

ALA UNIT 26: HONORING OUR VETERANS

Kim Shanks, Tami Kufner, Karole Bertram-Carroll and Kathy Kienow, members of ALA Unit 26 in Baraboo, presented lap quilts to 36-year Army Veteran Philip Wedeking and Marine Corps Veteran Richard Harrison.



ALA UNIT 522: HUBERTUS FUNDRAISER

Goetz Saint Louis ALA Unit 522 in Hubertus held their first Auxiliary pancake breakfast, followed by a Packer Party, and raised over \$1,200. Festivities included a bake sale, Bloody Mary bar and orange/cranberry mimosas. They served pancakes (and gluten-free pancakes!), sausage, scrambled eggs and beverages to more than 100 people. Kris Vesche was the event chairman and members worked or donated baked goods.



SEPTEMBER 2024 DAILY SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Day	Prize	Winner	City
1	\$25	Crystal Dow	Durand
2	\$15	Derrick Bunkelman	De Pere
3	\$15	Dena Adamson	Plymouth
4	\$15	Barbara Grosenick	Brookfield
5	\$15	Elsie Murphy	Barneveld
6	\$15	Bonnie Schmidt	Sun Prairie
7	\$15	Nancy Winters	Reedsburg
8	\$25	Gary Zuehlke	Fremont
9	\$15	Mary Uchtyl	Onalaska
10	\$15	Tammi Alexander	Montello
11	\$15	Sue Zmuda	Loretta
12	\$15	Susan Geisler	Lawton, OK
13	\$15	Marjorie Herbenson	Eleva
14	\$15	Gale Crist	Mayville
15	\$25	Donovan Helke	Mosinee
16	\$15	Judy Brendemuehl	Horicon
17	\$15	Edith Rohrbeck	Sheboygan Falls
18	\$500	Karen Klunck	Sheboygan
19	\$15	Nancy Fields	Marion
20	\$15	Debbie Tracy	Kaukauna
21	\$15	Doris Filter	Oconto
22	\$25	Vickie Looker	Withee
23	\$15	Rita Steffen	St. Nazianz
24	\$15	Miriam Barr	Lyons, IL
25	\$15	Carol Dorn	Prescott
26	\$15	Jennifer Thomas	Appleton
27	\$15	Clara Laufenberg	Sparta
28	\$15	Sherry Wallace	Ladysmith
29	\$25	Anne Marie Wenten	Grafton
30	\$15	Bonnie Kabus	Independence

OCTOBER 2024 DAILY SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Day	Prize	Winner	City
1	\$15	Margaret Cypher	Stetsonville
2	\$15	Marge Carmody	Clintonville
3	\$15	Yvonne Clemens	Dane
4	\$15	Bernadine Grundy	Minocqua
5	\$15	Heather Treptow	Kimberly
6	\$25	Wendy Larson	Webster
7	\$15	Rick Thoma	Neillsville
8	\$15	Genevieve Syftestad	Verona
9	\$15	Darcy Dwiszcz	La Valle
10	\$15	Colleen Kreil	Watertown
11	\$15	Janet Spaude	Shiocton
12	\$15	Kathy Peterson	Sparta
13	\$500	Gill Orth	Cameron
14	\$15	Karon Kuykendall	Boscobel
15	\$15	Sylvia Cross	Milwaukee
16	\$15	Kathleen Hines	Benton
17	\$15	Jamie Brantner	Eau Claire
18	\$15	Mia Beck	Stoughton
19	\$15	Dawn Morris	Belleville
20	\$25	Terry Casper	Hartland
21	\$15	Bernie Heindl	Land O'Lakes
22	\$15	Joann Slaney-Tennant	Richland Center
23	\$15	Amy Singer	Park Falls
24	\$15	Roxi Maier	Sauk City
25	\$15	Janet Birnschein	Port Washington
26	\$15	Delores Bruch	Hancock
27	\$25	Terry Stiner	Mondovi
28	\$15	Faith Elford	Fort Atkinson
29	\$15	Patricia Anderson	Sun Prairie
30	\$15	Madelyn Shea	Fox Lake
31	\$15	Kay McMahon	Willowbrook, IL

ALA UNIT 333: COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sun Prairie American Legion Post 333 Commander Tina Petersen, a dual member, and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 333 President, Charlene Pulham, volunteered at the Sun Prairie Fire Department Open House.





Jim Johnson
Department
Commander

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

As I write this article, we are amid Veterans Day Activities. What a great time to be a Veteran. Wisconsin surely celebrated their Veterans at the Governor's Veteran's reception, communitywide celebrations, American Legion Posts, schools both large and small, Veteran's Homes and nursing homes. All these events celebrated your service to our great nation. Now that is pretty darn awesome!

We also just finished with the election of a President, with that comes uncertainty. We should feel confident that regardless of who holds office at the state or federal level, The American Legion will remain steadfast in the commitment to defend Veteran's rights and benefits. We will ensure that our service and sacrifice will always be honored and protected.

Hopefully you were able to spend time with family and friends during the Thanks-

giving season and you are looking forward to embracing the upcoming holiday season. Wishing you and yours Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and a joyful Hanukkah. As you embrace the magic of your faith, let your convictions guide you in serving our fellow Veterans, their families, and our communities. For God and Country.

Be The One is service to our fellow Veterans. Your Wisconsin American Legion is working toward becoming a resource for Veterans that call 988 and 211. Our purpose will be to take calls from Veterans that have been cleared through 988 as not suicidal. These are Veterans that just need to talk with someone, someone to hear them without judgement. We will be asking the Wisconsin American Legion Family to step up to Be The One for these Veterans. One aspect of this volunteer opportunity includes training. This will provide us with the tools to equip us to help these Veterans. A first step in the training process will occur at Midwinter. We will have two training sessions

on the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale with the addition of roleplay training. If you are interested in the organization and delivery of this service, please reach out to adjutant@wilegion.org. We have set up a fund called "Be The One for Wisconsin" to provide support for our programs and services that directly impact Veteran wellness.

Our Wisconsin American Legion website has information on all of our programs, Legion College, our manuals, upcoming events, membership, awards, and even a directory of Department Officers and Department Committees. Check out wilegion.org.

I'm looking forward to seeing our American Legion Family at our Midwinter celebration! Join us as we kick off the celebration on our 2.2 for the Twenty-two Be The One walk on January 16 at 3 p.m. Please be sure to check out the schedule and I'm confident you will find something that interests you. Until then, stay safe, stay strong and help us make Wisconsin Legion Strong!



Becky Mueller
2024-2025
Department
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let's make everyday Veterans Day! The events I heard about or attended were wonderful. It was so good to be part of letting our Veterans know how much we appreciate their service and sacrifice. It is amazing how many of them are still so committed to our communities, state and nation as their service continues. For God and Country is a way of life for The American Legion Family!

Continue to reach out to each other as the holidays approach. It is so easy to get caught up in the planning, decorating and festivities that we forget that the holidays are not happy events for everyone. The sense of loss and grief is intensified. The financial struggles loom larger. Despair, disappointment and depression are present in the midst of the decorations and carols. Remember to check on each other – BE THE ONE!

Midwinter Conference is fast approaching. Auxiliary members are welcome to attend all the sessions throughout the event – Legion, SAL, or Auxiliary. Don't forget to send in your registration! Hope to see you there – my plan is to learn more about the Legion, SAL, and the Auxiliary. Really looking forward to our sessions on Saturday!

Plans are underway for a joint Testimonial dinner again this year. Details will be forthcoming. It is so nice to celebrate the accomplishments of the entire Legion FAMILY together!

VA facility visits are scheduled for the next months. I'm excited to bring greetings and gifts on your behalf. I want to thank our hospital volunteers personally for your dedication and commitment to making a difference to our veterans, military and their family members during their treatments and residencies in these facilities. You make a difference whether in person or by your donations and support. This is our mission.

I am excited about the poppy poster and essay contests already underway. Our children and youth are amazing. Watch for details about the expanding Christmas Gift Shop!

Thank you all for your continued service and support as we work together to Serve our Veterans, Military and Each Other from the Depths of our Hearts.

May God bless each one of you.



Allen Watry
SAL Detachment
Commander

SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

First, I would like to send out a Belated Veterans Day "THANK YOU" to all Veterans. We would not have the freedoms we have if it was not for our Veterans and their service to our Nation. Please know the Sons of The American Legion are thankful for all you have done for our country, and we are at the ready to support the Legion and all their programs.

One very important program of the Legion Family is "Be The One". On Nov. 9 I had the opportunity to participate in a R.A.C.E. Training session. This session was hosted by the Auxiliary 2nd District and Mayville Unit 69. This was a very enlightening training session which has provided me with new tools and perspectives on how to help others in crisis. I would encourage everyone to find the time to participate in one of these training sessions. It will be well worth your while.

As we look to close this calendar year, just a couple reminders for Squadrons and their members. Please continue to process memberships for the 2025 Season. The 2025 Membership drive is off to a great start, but we have many members who have not

renewed yet. Ideally everyone is renewed before the end of 2024 so there is not a break in their membership and/or memberships benefits as we move into the new year. Also, it is never too early to start working on Consolidated Squadron Reports and preparing for Spring Elections.

Also, please encourage your members to attend the Midwinter Conference in Appleton, Wisconsin the weekend of January 16. There are multiple training sessions being held, all are open to any Legion Family Member. This year will include a Training Session specifically about the SAL called "How to Manage a Squadron". This will cover topics including yearly reports, elections, finances, and interactions with Posts/Units. You can find much more information about the 2025 Midwinter Conference at www.wilegion.org.

Finally, as I wrap this up, I ask that we watch out for each other during this upcoming busy and likely stressful holiday season. Let's all help each other stay focused on Family/Friends and Self Care during the next couple months. Please keep up the Buddy Checks and please take care of yourself. I hope to see you at the Midwinter Conference the weekend of January 16.



Corey Doehrmann
State Director
American Legion
Riders Association

LEGION RIDERS

The American Legion Riders Association (ALRA) of Wisconsin had our quarterly membership meeting on Saturday, November 2 at Weiske-Farrell American Legion Post 351 in Montello, WI. We had special guest American Legion Auxiliary Department President Becky Mueller who shared her priorities and projects for the year. It was great to hear from her. Membership in the ALRA of WI stands at 735. To join the ALRA of WI you must meet three requirements: be a member of the American Legion Family in Wisconsin, have a motorcycle endorsement on your driver's license, and own a motorcycle of at least 500cc. Spouses meet the motorcycle endorsement and ownership requirements through their spouse.

Also shared was information about the WI Legion Riders-Cruise for a Cause, 'Be the One for Wisconsin-25'. This three-day motorcycle fundraising ride will be held on June 27-29, 2025. It will start in Port Washington and end in Marshfield. The purpose of the ride is threefold: raise awareness, raise money for training/equipment and to send veterans to Camp American Legion. The Legion Riders are promoting this event; however, it is Legion Family affair with Commander Johnson, President Mueller, Commander Watry and Director Doehrmann participating. More information will be coming out about how Legion posts, Auxiliary units and Sons squadrons can get involved.

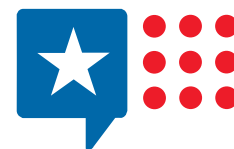
The ALRA of WI also had a District Directors Conference on November 4 via zoom. State Directors, District Directors and Assistant Directors met to ensure we all operate with the same guidelines and expectations. It also gave us the opportunity to collaborate on how

to improve some of our reporting. These will likely become an annual event and could evolve into in person.

Like most of the Legion Family, many Legion Rider districts will be planning get together over the holiday season to spend social time to stay in touch. Planning for next year's events will start in earnest in January-February so that by the time the riding season starts all the preparations are complete. If you have a community parade or event that you would like the Legion Riders to support, please reach out to me or visit <https://wilegion.org/riders/> to find the right contact for your area.

If you have any questions about the ALRA of WI don't hesitate to contact me: Corey Doehrmann/State Director, cell 262-305-0305 or email at alrawi.director@gmail.com. Our next meeting will be February 1 at Grassman-Sowle-Larsen-Senz American Legion Post 201 in Tomah, WI.

Veterans Crisis Line



DIAL 988
then **PRESS 1**