



BADGER



LEGIONNAIRE

& WISCONSIN VOL 103 #3 | JUNE 2026



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

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

**107th Department Convention
July 15-19 • Appleton**
Hilton Paper Valley
333 W. College Avenue
Appleton, WI 54911

This is your registration form only; this is **NOT YOUR DELEGATE FORM**. Delegate Forms are mailed to the Post 30 Days prior to Convention, June 17, 2026 per the Department Constitution and Bylaws. It is advised however, to register prior to this date.

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

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Member ID #: _____ District Number: _____

AL Post #: _____ Auxiliary Unit #: _____ SAL Squadron #: _____

ITEM	NUMBER	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Registration Fee		\$30.00	
Registration Fee after July 6, 2026		\$35.00	
Saturday Evening PCC/Legion Family Event: Buffet- 7 PM, ½ Barrell of Beer, Soda, cash bar and Live Entertainment by NEW Dueling Pianos! Doors open at 6:30 PM- Deadline June 30, 2026		\$50.00/person	
Total Enclosed:			

Make checks payable to The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin

Check #: _____

OR enter credit card information below

Card Type: _____ Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____ / _____ Security Code: _____

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

Scan the QR code to pay online!



APPLETON TO HOST 107TH CONVENTION

HILTON PAPER VALLEY TO PLAY HOST JULY 15-19
WHEN THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Join the Legion Family for the 107th Department Convention July 15-19, 2026, at the Hilton Appleton Paper Valley, 333 W. College Avenue, Appleton. All Legion Family members are welcome and encouraged to attend. **THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!**

Wednesday, July 15, 2026, is move in and set-up day, with the Membership Committee and Wisconsin American Legion Foundation meeting in the afternoon. Registration will start at 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 16, 2026, will begin with all Department Committees Meeting throughout the morning, Wisconsin American Legion College Alumni Association meeting in the afternoon followed by the Department Executive Committee meeting at 4 p.m.

Friday, July 17, 2026, begins with the District Caucuses at 7:30 a.m. At 9:00 a.m. the opening ceremonies will officially kick off the 107th Department Convention. There will be a Blood Drive from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Convention Committees meet at 2 p.m. to discuss resolutions. The evening will have you visiting with the candidates for office at their hospitality rooms and networking with your fellow veterans.

Saturday, July 18, 2026, will begin with voting on the Leadership for 2026/2027. **NEW** this year will be voting in caucus rooms. The schedule will have the location of your voting



room. After voting, join us for another exciting General Session. In addition to many awards and speakers, come meet the winners and hear how our programs have impacted their lives. In the evening join the outgoing and incoming leadership for the Past Commander's Club party with a homestyle buffet including beef tips and pork loin and entertainment by NEW Dueling Pianos.

Sunday, July 19, 2026, will begin with a Legion Family Memorial Service, followed by the installation of Department Officers. The weekend will conclude with the first Department Executive Committee meeting of the newly elected officers.

For up-to-date information on the convention, including speakers, registration, and housing visit <https://wilegion.org/department-convention>.

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2930 American Legion Drive
Portage, WI 53901

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& “Wisconsin”

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“Badger Legionnaire”

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2930 American Legion Drive
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Executive Editor
Sheri Hicks

2025-26 Department Officers
Department Commander
Nathan Bond

Department Vice Commanders
**Larry Larson
Steve Kohnke
Dave Steinert
Rita Rindahl**

Department Adjutant
Julie Muhle

Department Chaplain
Virgil Smith

Historian
Morris Sadicario

Sergeant-at-Arms
**John Berg
Aimee Korger**

Service Officer - **James Fialkowski**
NECman - **Robert Shappell**
Alternate NECman - **Karl Stuvengen**
Judge Advocate - **David Bretl**

District Commanders
**1st – Candace Rothering
2nd – Joe Leone
3rd – Dan O'Brien
4th – Andrew Minch
5th – Craig Ellis
6th – Ken Flock
7th – Chet Faith
8th – Penny Peeters
9th – Terry McNulty
10th – Felicia Decker
11th – Gerry Johnson
12th – Joe Roberts**

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

“Wisconsin”

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin**
2930 American Legion Drive
P.O. Box 140 • Portage, WI 53901
**Bonnie Dorniak, Editor
Sue Hembrook, 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.

RECENT BBS ALUMNUS DEMMITH ELECTED TO OFFICE

2025 ATTENDEE IS AMONG YOUNGEST PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN WISCONSIN HISTORY

A recent Badger Boys State alumnus was recently elected to local office in the spring general election, becoming among the youngest elected officials in the state of Wisconsin.



Dylan Demmith at Badger Boys

Dylan Demmith, who attended Badger Boys State in 2025, turned 18 years old a little over a week before being elected to the Marinette common council, according to WPR.

“I saw on the board that we didn’t have a representation of our generation and our age group, and I thought it very important that we did have someone that was representing

us with the board,” Demmith told WBAY after his election.

Demmith was active in his high school student council, serving as Student Senate President and Class President.

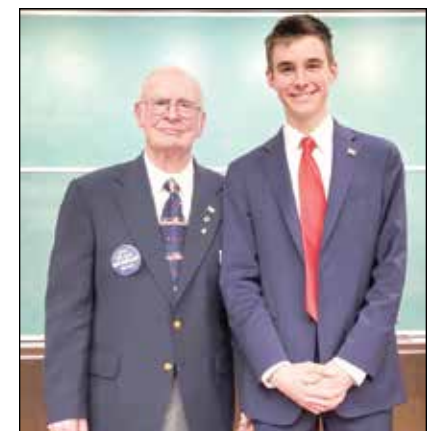
At Badger Boys State, Demmith was elected Secretary of State by his peers. Election to statewide executive office at BBS is difficult and extremely selective, with only six citizens per year boasting such a feat.

Badger Boys State published a statement to social media congratulating Demmith after his election. “During his time at Badger Boys State, Dylan was elected Secretary of State — an achievement that reflected his attention to detail, strong work ethic, and ability to earn the trust of his peers. That same drive is now carrying forward into his community.”

When asked by WPR his feelings about being among the youngest public office holders in the state, Demmith said: “And I’m hoping that our age group can bring that new perspective that has been missing for a little while, that gap in our generations. And I’m hoping that we can bring that new youth and energy to the government.”



Oratorical Group at the 89th High School Oratorical Contest.



Robert Stone and Stephen Bott

89TH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST WAS A SUCCESS!

It is on to Nationals. Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, MI is the site for the National Oratorical Contest scheduled May 18th and 19th.

The Department Regional and Final contests were held at Ripon College on March 28th. The program got underway at 9:00am with the opening program. In the regional contest, there were 12 contestants from across the state competing for college scholarships and a chance to compete in the finals.

Our Nation’s 250th Birthday was recognized with a beautiful cake that was served after lunch.

The winners of the (3) regional contests competed

for college scholarships and a chance to represent the great state of Wisconsin at the National Contest.

It is my honor to announce that Stephen Bott from Nashotah was the winner of the department contest and will represent us well! Stephen’s parents are Travis and Jill Bott, and he is home schooled. Congratulations to Stephen.

My wife Betty, who Co-chairs the oratorical program, and I will travel to Hillsdale and participate as judges in the national contest.

As the chairman of the Department’s Oratorical program, I can’t say enough how much I appreciate

the support we get from the Legion Department of Wisconsin, department staff, and the wonderful group of volunteers. It takes over 40 volunteers to pull off the regional and final contests, and this year it went off without a hitch. We did not have a moment’s hesitation in the finals contest, and this is attributable to the great work of the support staff. THANK YOU!

Anyone that wants to volunteer at the 90th Annual High School Oratorical Contest in March 2027 can contact Sheri Hicks at Legion Headquarters. A specific date has not been set.

Robert Stone, Program Chairman

Going to National Convention in Louisville? Leave the driving to us!

Sign up for a coach bus **leaving from Wisconsin American Legion Headquarters in Portage on Friday, August 28 @8:00am, returning Thursday, September 3 @10:00am.** Leave your personal vehicle at Legion Headquarters.

Relax, visit with friends, no driving or parking worries for your trip.

**Cost: \$300 per person/round trip
Sign up by August 7, if bus is not full, then bus is cancelled.**

Click on the link below for details and to sign up.
<https://wilegion.org/national-convention>



SAVE THE DATE:



The Salute to Veterans Assembly at the 83rd session of Badger Boys State is scheduled Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 6:30pm at the University of Eau Claire - McPhee Olson Center. All Veterans are welcome!

POST 185 MARKS MILESTONES

Brask-Fossum-Post 185 of Grantsburg recently held their birthday event at which time members of the Post and Auxiliary were honored for their years of membership.

Those recognized for the Post were: Amy Giasuolo and David Zamor, 5 years; Wayne Norling, 10 years;



Roland Marek is a 60-year Legion member.

Duane Valencour and Leon Meuwissen, 20 years; Corey Arnold, Jeff Fallstrom and Sara Moore, 25 years; Ed Zalesky, 30 years; John Meyer, Tom Loomis and Terry Hedberg, 45 years; Gary Nelson, Tim Hesla and John Bruzek, 50 years; and Roland Marek, 60 years.

Recognition was given to recently deceased 5-year members Tom Rombach and Vernon Bistram.

Auxiliary members honored were: Sherryl Hebert and Terri Giles, 5 years; Avril Geiger, Jacqueline Finch and Janet Watts, Dona McKenzie, 10 years; Sena Christopherson, 20 years; Rebekah Hubert, Penny Curtin, Olivia Johnson, Mary Jo Knoebel and Nancy Yant, 25 years; Kathleen Josephson, Sara Ronningen and Barbara Myers, 35 years; Joanna Goldman, 40 years; and Ginger Baker and Patricia Szams, 45 years.

Also honored was Terri Giles, a Blue Star Mother whose son Craig is still serving in the military.



Art Behling received a certificate and pin for 80 years of continuous membership with American Legion Post 60 last week. Pictured are Chaplin Paul Kluege, Commander Brian Smits, Behling, and Adjutant Richard Staedt. Brian Roebke photos.

BEHLING NETS 80-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD

By Brian Roebke

Village of Kimberly's well-known and well-travelled centenarian was presented with a continuous membership certificate and pin for 80 years with Kimberly American Legion Post 60 at their meeting on Thursday, March 19.

Behling, who entered the room at the village complex on his trusty scooter, quipped that he was wearing a hat that was 100 years old that he received from his father.

He previously gave his hat to someone who joined the Legion for

the first time so he needed a new hat and took his one his father wore before he died after being a member for more than 60 years.

"I think he joined around 1926," Behling said, noting he joined the Legion in 1946.

Behling thinks his father was the last World War I veteran from Kimberly to pass away when he was 96 years old.

How old is Art? "102 and a half," he proudly told the veterans at the meeting.

He's also ready for warm weather to arrive. "I'm tired of slopping around in the mud," he said.



POST 446 CELEBRATES TWO 60-YEAR MEMBERS



Steuben Post 446 celebrated two 60-year members. From left is Fritz Curtis-60-year member, Steuben Post Commander Dick Young and Dave Dombeck 60-year member.

POSTAL MATCH DRAWS 51

The 2026 Wisconsin American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Postal Match was held during the month of February. There were 51 shooters from 5 clubs. DuWayne Wieck serves as the Junior Shooting Sports Chair.

The Senior Division winners are:

- 1st place, \$1000 scholarship and trophy awarded to Holly El-singer from the Langlade County 4-H/Legion Air Rifle Club with a score of 267.7
- 2nd place, \$750 scholarship and trophy awarded to Logan Felton from Richland Youth Shooting Sports with a score of 250.7.
- 3rd place, \$250 scholarship and trophy awarded to Levi Wieck, from Plymouth American Legion Air Rifle Club with a score of 240.0.

The Junior Division trophy winner is Nicholas Perna from Richland Youth Shooting Sports with a score of 246.8.

The Beginner Division trophy winner is Piper Koran from Plymouth American Legion Air Rifle Club with a score of 230.0.

The winner of the 2026 Junior Shooting Sports team trophy is Richland Youth Shooting sports with a combined score of their top 4 shooters totaling 974.6 points. Plymouth American Legion Air Rifle Club has a 2nd place team score of 935.4 points. Washington County 4-H Shooting Sports has a 3rd place score of 917.0 points.

All shooters receive a medal for participation.



STATE-WIDE 2ND ANNUAL WALK FOR THE 22 2.2 Mile Walk

The American Legion's "BE THE ONE" initiative aims to eliminate the stigma around mental health treatment and reduce the daily suicide rate of 22 veterans. This campaign focuses on empowering veterans, servicemembers, families, and civilians to take action when a veteran is at risk.



Host: American Legion Post 362
Location: 306 S Lake Ave,
Phillips, WI

Saturday
September 12, 2026
10 a.m.

All proceeds go towards
Department Troop &
Family Support Fund

Registration:
\$30 Donation with t-shirt
\$20 Donation w/o t-shirt
Non-Participant Donations Welcome

To register or donate use QR Code or website:
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-walk-for-the-22-walk-22-miles-to-help-prevent-veteran-suicide>



Food Trucks
will be
on-site

Wellcare Medicare Advantage & more of the benefits veterans deserve.

See how a Wellcare Medicare Advantage plan works seamlessly alongside your VA coverage to give you more of the benefits you can use every day.

If you have Medicare and Medicaid, limited income, recently lost employer coverage, are turning 65, or you've just moved, you may be eligible for one of many qualifying events that allow you to enroll now.

Find out if you qualify today.

844-640-0095 (TTY: 711)
8 a.m.-8 p.m., 7 days a week

www.thelit.com



CASH PARADISE RAFFLE



"YOUR" Department Annual Raffle
Supports American Legion Programs, Youth Programs,
and Community Projects by the American Legion

CASH PRIZES Drawing at 8pm, July 18, 2026
at Department Convention in Appleton

1 st - \$15,000	4 th - \$3,000	7 th - \$800
2 nd - \$6,000	5 th - \$2,000	8 th - \$600
3 rd - \$4,000	6 th - \$1,000	9 th - \$400
		10 th - \$200

\$20 per ticket -- Need not be present to win

For Tickets: Contact your local American Legion Post or
Email rosanna.bogle@outlook.com / amlegionman@gmail.com

HONOR OUR WOMEN VETERANS

“June 12 marks Womens Veterans Day, a date that too often passes quietly despite the millions of women who have served our nation with strength, skill, and sacrifice. As we recognize this important day, it’s worth taking a hard look at how well we support the women who wore the uniform—and where we still fall short.



Women are the fastestgrowing group of veterans in the United States, yet many continue to face barriers when accessing the benefits they’ve earned. Too many female veterans report feeling overlooked or misunderstood when navigating the VA system. Some struggle to find genderspecific health services, including reproductive care, mental health support, and treatment for military sexual trauma. Others face long wait times or limited availability of providers trained to address women’s unique health needs.

These gaps aren’t just bureaucratic inconveniences. They affect real lives. They influence whether a veteran receives timely cancer screenings, whether she gets adequate support for PTSD, whether she feels safe walking into a VA clinic at all. Women who served deserve a system that sees them, understands them, and meets their needs without hesitation.

To its credit, the VA has taken steps in recent years to expand women’s health services and improve outreach. But progress must continue—and it must accelerate. That means increasing funding for women’s clinics, expanding mental health resources, improving claims processing, and

ensuring that every VA facility is equipped to provide comprehensive, respectful care to female veterans.

The American Legion continues to highlight the need for more research on womenspecific health issues, including menopause and the longterm effects of military service on women’s health. We consistently support reforms to improve MST claims processing, expand traumainformed care, and strengthen accountability. This includes support for bills such as the Improving VA Training for MST Claims Act, the Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act. The American Legion advocates for increased funding for women’s health clinics, expanded mental health services, and improved staffing — all of which align with several pending bills aimed at strengthening VA women’s health programs.

On Women Veterans Day, we honor the service of these trailblazers. But honoring them requires more than recognition. It requires action. Our country asked these women to serve. Now it’s our responsibility to serve them in return.”

NOBLE NINTH HOST NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

The Noble Ninth District in northeast Wisconsin had the great honor to host National Vice Commander Stephen T. Weismann from Tennessee.

Stephen (Steve) flew into Milwaukee and was greeted by our NEC Bob Shappell and Vice NEC Karl Stuvengen. They checked in in Green Bay then met Wednesday evening on April 15.

Steve spoke to Post 283 and Oconto County Legionnaires and was invited to have his “dog tags” above the Post bar. (See picture)

On Thursday, April 16 Steve and our DEC guys toured Veteran’s First tiny home development then came to Door County where 9th District Commander Terry McNulty met them at Renard’s Cheese for a short shopping trip, lunch and a cheese making video presentation. Then that Thursday

afternoon Door County Legionnaires hosted Steve and our dignitaries at The Door County Maritime Museum and that Thursday evening American Legion Post 236 of Algoma hosted and social at their hall by Lake Michigan and Steve and our dignitaries attended their Post Meeting along with Kewaunee County Legionnaires.

Friday April 17th 9th District Commander Terry McNulty invited members to join Steve and our dignitaries for breakfast. Our dignitaries then headed out to our neighbors of the 6th District to visit with their Employer of the Year. In the afternoon of Friday, the 17th Past Department Vice Commander Deb Thomas got tickets for a Lambeau Field tour and for The Packer Hall of Fame. We ended our Friday as Wisconsinites would with a Fish Fry at 9th District’s largest Post,

Post 38 in Appleton. (See pictures)

Saturday April 18th Steve and our dignitaries went west to the 8th District Spring Meeting and in the afternoon returned to Pulaski to see their Veteran’s Memorial Monument and then a social/dinner at Post 337 of Pulaski. Of course, we had Polish sausage and found out Steve was Polish.

It was a great visit as Steve made his way home on Sunday from the Green Bay. Comments were made that Steve was a real down to earth guy and although he wasn’t a big NFL fan, his team would have been those Cowboys. Notice his favorite player now #1 and wears green and gold. Something Steve’s bio doesn’t mention is that he is a big baseball fan, Pittsburgh Pirates fan, and of course along with our Americanism programs a Legion Baseball fan too.



A busy visit to the Noble Ninth (above left) by National Vice Commander Stephen T. Weismann included the NVC's dogtags at bar (above right), the Post 38 NVC fish fry (below left) and a visit to Lambeau Field with Alt NEC Stuvengen (below right).



Suicide Prevention is Everyone’s Responsibility

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

Four Critical Questions

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

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

Next Series Begins

•Get Informed •Get Involved •Save a Life

Aug 11

Two Time

Options:

11:30 am or 6:00 pm

Central Time

NOTE: 3-Hour In-Person Training can be scheduled at your organization or company.

The R.A.C.E. Suicide Prevention training is three one-hour sessions delivered on three consecutive Tuesdays starting 11 August. The training is applicable for anyone, including you! The training prepares you to **Recognize** the often subtle signs of distress. You will learn how to **Ask** the person about any suicidal thoughts, demonstrate that you **Care** and ways to offer Hope that can help the person to choose life versus death. The last step in the R.A.C.E. model is learning different **Escort** options so the person receives professional care. Let’s work together to *Save Lives—One Life at a Time!*

Register Today at

www.RACESuicidePrevention.us

Be the lifeline.



In Partnership With



LEGIONNAIRES CAN BUILD HAPPIER, HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Did you know that loneliness is a common feeling expressed by individuals contemplating suicide? Do you ever wonder why you and others you know feel lonely? Do you think that WWII and Korean War Veterans felt as lonely? I doubt it. So, what is different today? This article illuminates some answers with various facts and a few reflective questions. The internet, laptops, smartphones, Google, social media, and DoorDash did not exist in most of the 20th century. Before all those innovations were created people engaged in social interactions that involved laughter and doing fun things together, often while helping others meet their needs. You and I need to feel wanted and appreciated. We need interpersonal connections built on mutual trust so we can openly discuss ideas, challenges, and fears. We need to feel valued for who we are as individuals. We want to learn and make meaningful contributions that benefit others.

Think about how you spend your days and weeks. If you prefer, think about how most of the members of your Post spend their days and weeks. If you are like most Americans, you spend an average of nine hours each day glued to your laptop screen, smartphone, and/or television. You can have your meals delivered, your laundry cleaned, and your yardwork completed without ever having to interact with your neighbors or service providers. You can go out for a meal at a fine dining restaurant with your main squeeze and never have to engage in conversation because both of you are glued to your smartphones. All these conveniences also insulate you from worrying about a neighbor or fellow Veteran who is going through a tough time and feeling lonely.

Are you interested in any change or are you content to be lonely and miserable? Ok, maybe your response is “I’m not that miserable or lonely.” Even so, there are a lot of people in your (veteran) community who are. They need you and you need them. Change is not a noun – something you wish for. Change is a verb – something you actively engage in. Reducing loneliness involves more than a campaign slogan or doing a buddy check once a quarter.

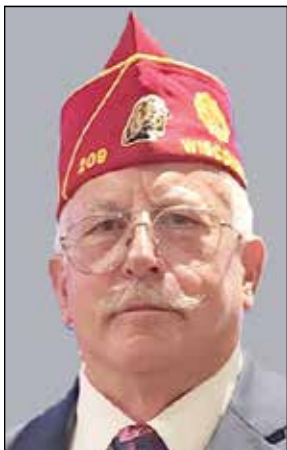
Reducing loneliness and increasing connectedness is an important part of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, the first Pillar of The American Legion. A wonderful place to start making change is at your Post. Open your facility every day, if possible, so all Veterans can come together to expand their circle of friends and have reasons to feel valued, hopeful, and supported, all of which are protective factors that strengthen our resilience and reduce the risk of suicide.

Reach out to your neighbors – all of them. Start small. Take a four-square block area around your Post and visit every house. Tell each resident about all the things your Post does under the Four Pillars of The American Legion. Ask if they have any needs that your members might help with. Invite them to visit your Post for social activities. Of course, inquire about any current active service members or Veterans in their family. These suggestions are just a start. As your circle of friends expands and people feel valued and less lonely, more ideas will emerge as you build happier and healthier communities together.

Article submitted by Curtiss S. Peck, Facilitator, R.A.C.E. Suicide Prevention Training.

CANDIDATES FOR HIGH OFFICE AT THE 107TH DEPARTMENT CONVENTION IN APPLETON + JULY 15-19

*Karl Stuvengen
for NEC*



**Karl Stuvengen
Alternate NEC**

Alternate National Executive Committee member Karl Stuvengen is seeking support for the high office of National Executive Committee Member. His eligibility for membership is through 21 years of service in the United States Navy.

See December 2025 edition of the Badger Legionnaire for additional information on Candidate Karl Stuvengen.

*Nathan Bond for
Alternate NEC*



**Nathan Bond
Department Commander**

Department Commander Nathan Bond is seeking support for the high office of Alternate National Executive Committee Member. His eligibility for membership is through 25 years of service in the United States Army.

See December 2025 edition of the Badger Legionnaire for additional information on Candidate Nathan Bond.

*Steve Kohnke for
Dept. Commander*



**Steve Kohnke
Dept. Vice Commander**

Department Vice Commander Steven Kohnke is seeking support for the high office of Department Commander. His eligibility for membership is through 43 years of service in the United States Air Force.

See December 2025 edition of the Badger Legionnaire for additional information on Candidate Steven Kohnke.

*Larry Johnson for
Dept. Commander*



**Larry Larson
Dept. Vice Commander**

Department Vice Commander Larry Larson is seeking support for the high office of Department Commander. His eligibility for membership is through his service in the United States Army.

See February 2026 edition of the Badger Legionnaire for additional information on Candidate Larry Larson.

*John Edelblute for
Vice Commander*



**John Edelblute
4th District Adjutant**

4th District Adjutant John Edelblute is seeking support for the high office of Department Vice Commander. His eligibility for membership is through 4 years of service in the United States Army.

See February 2026 edition of the Badger Legionnaire for additional information on Candidate John Edelblute.

*Chad Faith for
Vice Commander*



**Chad Faith
7th District Commander**

7th District Commander Chet Faith is seeking support for the high office of Department Vice Commander. His eligibility for membership is through 20 years of service in the United States Navy.

See December 2025 edition of the Badger Legionnaire for additional information on Candidate Chet Faith.

*Scott Markle for
Vice Commander*



**Scott Markle
Past. 12th Dist. Commander**

Past 12th District Commander Scott Markle is seeking support for the high office of Department Vice Commander. His eligibility for membership is through 20.5 years of service in the United States Air Force.

See February 2026 edition of the Badger Legionnaire for additional information on Candidate Scott Markle.

*Candace Rothering
for Vice Commander*



**Candace Rothering
1st District Commander**

1st District Commander Candace Rothering is seeking support for the high office of Department Vice Commander. Her eligibility for membership is through her years of service in the United States Navy.

See December 2025 edition of the Badger Legionnaire for additional information on Candidate Candace Rothering.

*Debbie Thomas for
Vice Commander*



**Debbie Thomas
Past Dept. Vice Commander**

Past Department Vice Commander Debbie Thomas is seeking support for the high office of Department Vice Commander. Her eligibility for membership is through 24 years of service in the United States Air Force.

See February 2026 edition of the Badger Legionnaire for additional information on Candidate Debbie Thomas.

*John Argust for
Sgt. - at - Arms*



John Argust

John Argust is seeking support for the high office of Department Sergeant-at-Arms. His eligibility for membership is through his service in the United States Navy from 1974 to 1977 and in the reserves until 1980.

See December 2025 edition of the Badger Legionnaire for additional information on Candidate John Argust.

*Jeremy Mason for
SAL Commander*



**Jeremy Mason
SAL Detachment Vice Cmdr.**

SAL Detachment Vice Commander Jeremy Mason is seeking support for the high office of SAL Detachment Commander. His eligibility for membership is through the military service of both of his grandfathers.

See February 2026 edition of the Badger Legionnaire for additional information on Candidate Jeremy Mason.

POST 282 COLORS



A member of Kingston Post 395 and a member of Markesan Post 282 served as Color Guard for the Markesan High School girls softball game on March 30.

POST 360 DONATION



Gordy Acker, American Legion Post 360 in Waunakee presenting a check for \$300 to the Waunakee Food Pantry from donations collected during the Christmas party.



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.

71 YEARS AT POST 54



Ervin M. Stangl was recognized for 71 years of continuous membership. Erv served in the U.S. Navy from WWII, 1944-1946, and was honorably discharged. He was called back to service to Korea, 1951-1953. He was honorably discharged again.

Erv was Post 54 Commander when the post was built at the current location in 1962-1964. Erv is now our oldest Past Post Commander. He is shown above with Mike Feirer, the second oldest Post Commander.



POST 21 DART BALL TEAM

For the second year Paul Herrick Post 21 Kenosha sponsored their Dart Ball team and the season has now come to an end. Thank you to Joe and Zack, the team captains. We look forward to next season. What a great way to spend a Thursday evening.



WABENO POST 44 TO HOST PARADE ON JUNE 13

Come, celebrate with your fellow Legion members as we march down the main street of Wabeno on Saturday, June 13. All service members including Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and first responders, firefighters, law enforcement,

active duty or retired. Our parade will start at 10 am and for anyone not able to march, rides will be provided. Uniforms are optional and the parade will feature the Wabeno High School band. After the parade enjoy a great plate of ribs at our RibFest challenge, visit our Vietnam Wall presentation at our clubhouse or tour our Legion War Memorial park in a WWII military vehicle. Our festival will also include food, beverages, music and great prize raffles. Plenty of free parking and maps will be provided to help you move about through all the activities. You don't want to miss this fun packed day for the whole family.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



Waukegan American Legion Post 360 Bob "Digger" Schwab presented a \$500 check from Post 360 to Lt. Matt Plendal of the Waukegan Police department for their National Night Out.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY YOUTH GOVERNMENT DAY

On April 24 the Winnebago County Youth Government Day was held. Students from Winnebago County High Schools had been invited to participate. A big thank you to County Executive Gordon Hintz and everyone at the Winnebago County Courthouse for taking their time to teach the students about County Government.

The students got to hear from, and speak to, many of the different department's heads of the county. They also got a chance to have a mock county board meeting and learn how it all works.

We hope to have more kids next year. This is a lesson in civics by the county government sponsored by the American Legion. In the photos are teachers and students from Omro High School along with Omro Legion Members



Richard Perez US Marine Corps Viet Nam



LEFT: Rick Perez CENTER: Gold Star Mother Mae Williamson, Mother of Rick Perez. RIGHT: The event program with photos of the other post namesakes, Charles Gislason and Ludlow Richter.

WASHINGTON ISLAND POST RENAMED

A special announcement was made by Post 402 Commander Doug Hansen at the Veterans Day Program, November 11, 2025. Joining the names of two veterans of earlier wars who died in action was the name of the Marine who served in Vietnam was Richard E. Perez.

The name of Army Sergeant Charles Gislason, killed in WWI, had been honored by the Island Post following its original charter in the early 1930s. Then, following WWII, the name of Army Air Pilot Ludlow Richter was added. And now, the name of Richard "Rick" Perez has also been added, joining the names of Gislason and Richter, each honored for their wartime sacrifices.

Perez lost his life from explosion of a fragmentation grenade while defending his position near Danang, South Vietnam, on September 6, 1969. He was within days of

completing his one-year tour of duty. Perez was a 1967 graduate of Washington Island High School. After a short time in the work force, he attended Marine Corps Boot Camp in California in 1968, then was shipped to Vietnam.

Post Commander Hansen noted that Rick was one in a line of military veterans in his family. His father, Mario, served in the U. S. Army during WWII and became a German POW. An older brother, Mario Jr., served in the U. S. Navy during the Vietnam war. And Rick's stepfather, Thorstein Williamson, was a Marine wounded while fighting in Korea.

Many members of Rick's family gathered on stage following the recent Veterans Day Program to receive thanks for his service. They stood before a banner reflecting the Post's new name: Gislason-Richter-Perez Post 402.



Taking honors were (from left): Ron Vistainer, first place; Josh Fugate, Frank's Diner, second place; and Karen Argust, Post 21 Auxiliary, third place.

POST 21 CHILI COOKOFF IS A KENOSHA FAVORITE

When you ask about the best chili cookoff in Kenosha, the answer will be American Legion Post 21. On February 28th, Kenosha Post 21 hosted its 12th annual cookoff – and once again, did not disappoint. The day featured good friends, raffle

prizes, drinks, baked treats, and a great chili selection. While the event is a fundraiser, Post 21 takes immense pride in working together as a family and bringing the people of Kenosha together for a day of fun at the Legion. Congratulations to our winners!

PLYMOUTH POST 243 AIR RIFLE TEAM AWARDS NIGHT

On April 23, Plymouth Post 243 held an awards night for the Plymouth Air Rifle Team that participated in the 2026 American Legion Postal Match where 51 kids from all over the state participated. Plymouth took 2nd place out of 5 teams.

2nd Place team plaques, participant medals, and trophies were given out.

Pictured L to R: Coach DuWayne Wieck, Kailee Kornetzke, Morgan Adams, Piper Koran, the 1st place winner in the Beginner division, Levi Wieck, 3rd place winner in the Senior division also receiving a \$250 scholarship, Lyla Hau, Collin DeRocher, and Coach Scosh Koran.



POST 88: 60 YEARS



American Legion Post 88 in Manitowoc proudly honors Richard Klein with a 60-Year Certificate of Continuous Membership, celebrating his lifetime of dedication to our country and community. From Left: Dino Jaglin (1st Vice Cmdr.), Tom Pope (Cmdr.), Jim Pfeifer (Adj), Dick Klein (Past Cmdr.), Tim Hinds (2nd Vice Cmdr.).

POST 268 QUILT OF VALOR



On April 9, the Earl J. Conley Post 268 of Bruce was honored to host a Quilt of Valor ceremony for one of our own. Legionnaire Marlin Rochester, Vietnam War decorated combat veteran received his Quilt of Valor in from of family, friends and fellow Legionnaires.



MARSHFIELD PURPLE HEART MEMORIAL

On May 22, 2025, Past National Commander Dan Seehafer and Post Commander Tammy Neve led the dedication of the Purple Heart Memorial. It is located on Veterans Parkway in memory of all Purple Heart Veterans from Marshfield. The following veterans lost their lives in their service to our country: Spanish-American War, five; World War I, 41; World War II, 73; Korea, three; Vietnam War, 13; and Afghanistan War, one. Marshfield is a dedicated Purple Heart City.



MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

Steve Lewandowski of HA Todd Post 537 in Milwaukee was In Washington DC with 100-year-old fighter pilot E. Royce Williams after he received the Congressional Medal of Honor. Legionnaire Lewandowski spearheaded a 10-year effort comprised entirely of members of the American Legion to successfully obtain the MoH for Legion member Williams who took on 7 Soviet MiG's during the Korean War. The medal was awarded by President Trump during this year's State of the Union.

MARSHFIELD VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION

On November 11, 2025 the Marshfield Post 54 and Veterans Council dedicated a memorial to the Gold Star Mothers who lost their sons serving to support our freedom. This Beautiful Memorial is a solemn reminder of that great lost. The wall displays the names of the brave men from Marshfield who lost their lives in the Spanish-American War, five; World War I, 41; World War II, 73; Korea, three; Vietnam War, 13; and Afghanistan War, one. We, as a community in Marshfield, have sent more men and women to war per capita than any other city.



ESTATE SALE

Waukeee American Legion Post 360 members Ed Lawson, Dave Barman, Shirley and Ted Kubiak, May and Tom Acker held an estate sale for a longtime post member and past chaplain Chuck Peterson who was moved to an assisted living.

AMERY POST 169 BADGER STATE

This year's nominees for Badger Boys and Girls State from Post 169 were announced. From left: Past Commander Don Fansler, Ava Balog, Easton Petter and Commander Mark Starsky.



BADGER HONOR FLIGHT



Waukeee American Legion Post 360 members send off the Badger Honor Flight on April 18.



80-YEAR MEMBER



Amery American Legion Larson-Torgerson Post 169 recognizes 99-year-old David Ross Smith on his 80th anniversary with the Legion. Immediately upon returning from the Pacific Fleet in WWII, Ross joined at the insistence of his father and remains an active member. Congratulations Ross!

POST 126: 60 YEARS



Bob Brick receives a 60-year award for continuing membership in the American Legion. He is a member of the Brillion Bloedorn Becker Jensen Post 126. In the picture is right to left Membership Commander Wes Hedrich and member Bob Brick.

AMBERG TURKEY SHOOT



Amberg American Legion Post 428 held their annual Turkey Shoot in July 2025. They had a great turn out and a success event.



MOBILITY SCOOTER



Onalaska Post 336 donated a mobility scooter for an Air Force Veteran Donald Kelly. His wife Janet, and a Post representative Bob Muth, are with him.

FUNERAL HONORS AWARD



Norm Hegman received an award for performing the most funeral honors for American Legion Post 19 in Hartford.

3RD DISTRICT LEO OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Sgt. Lin Gunderson for being awarded 3rd District Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. He was recommended by Mazomanie Post 437. Gunderson was not able to attend the award presentation for 3rd District Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. However, Department Chaplain Virgil Smith accepted the award in his place. The award and certificate will be sent to Sgt Gunderson. Shown are PNC Denise Rohan, Chaplain Smith and 3rd District Commander Dan O'Brien. This Spring Meeting took place at Dodgeville High School on April 25.



MANITOWOC COUNTY HOSTS YOUTH GOVERNMENT DAY

The American Legion Manitowoc County Youth Government Day (YGD) was held on April 21, 2026 at the Manitowoc County Courthouse.

A group of 93 students, along with 14 members of the Legion Family, participated in this year's program. The day was filled with meaningful and engaging experiences, beginning with the opportunity to observe a live court hearing and then to meet and interact with newly elected County Executive Tyler Martell.

Participants received an introduction to courtroom proceedings, and toured key county facilities, including the County Clerk's Office, the County Jail and the Coroner's Office.

The program concluded with a lunch pro-

vided by the American Legion, followed by an address from Tim Zadalis, a retired U.S. Air Force Major General. General Zadalis encouraged students to persevere through failure, shared insights on servant leadership, and reflected on a powerful experience attending the funeral of a World War II Missing In Action (MIA) service member. He described presenting the American flag to the Veteran's 80-year-old daughter who was just 18 months old when her father's plane was shot down over Belgium thus underscoring the lasting impact of service and sacrifice.

Manitowoc County Youth Government Day continues to grow and improve, inspiring the next generation to lead and serve their communities.

2ND LT. JULIA SCHMID BARNES PLAQUE DEDICATION

Members of Ladewig-Zinkgraf American Legion Post 243 of Plymouth held a Wall of Honor ceremony on April 10th at Plymouth High School, recognizing the accomplishments and ultimate sacrifice of 2nd LT. Julia Schmid Barnes. Prescott-Bayens American Legion Post 83 of Sheboygan member Kerk Evans discovered her lichen-covered headstone while distributing flags at Wildwood Cemetery before the 2025 Memorial Day observances and researched her story further. Evans then reached out to Sheboygan County Commander DuWayne Wieck and Steve Conto from Post 243 for their input. Conto took the reins and did the legwork with the plaque and dedication ceremony. Barnes was the 1932 Plymouth High School Valedictorian and joined the U.S. Army Nurses Corps after the attack on Pearl Harbor. She was one of 14 nurses killed when their C-47 crashed while serving in the China-Burma-India Theater. Barnes was the only female service member from Sheboygan County killed in World War II.



Legionnaires from Post 243 and Post 83 that attended the dedication of the plaque that includes Julia's graduation picture.



FIRST DRIVE FOR POST 501

Post 501 Madison held their first drive through fundraiser of the season!

NEW 1ST DISTRICT COMMANDER ELECTED

Tom Visintainer was elected 1st District Commander. This event occurred at the 1st District Spring Conference. The elections were held at the Pritzker Military Museum in Kenosha on May 3. Congratulations Tom!



3RD DISTRICT TEACHER



Congratulations to DeForest teacher, Charlene Ulchiny Chopin, American Legion District 3 Teacher of the Year! She was recommended by DeForest Post 348. Pictured is PNC Denise Rohan, Charlene Ulchiny Chpin and 3rd District Commander Dan O'Brien.

POST 83 MARKS 40 YEARS



Sheboygan Prescott-Bayens Post 83 Commander Randy Meyer presents a certificate of appreciation and recognition for 40 years of continuous loyal service in The American Legion to PDC Greg Eirich.



Steven Michaels and Jessica Guy.

COON VALLEY SCHOOL DONATION

The Coon Valley American Legion Post 116 presented Westby School District Administrator Steven Michaels with a \$16,000 donation on April 29, effectively eliminating the district's outstanding student lunch debt.

The initiative began months ago after it was revealed the district had accrued over \$10,000 in lunch program debt. Rather than providing subpar meals or denying service to students, the district had chosen to carry the deficit.

Recognizing the scale of the issue, Post Adjutant Jessica Guy spearheaded a community-wide fundraising campaign. What began as an effort to close the gap resulted in an "outstanding response" from local businesses, non-profits, and individuals, nearly doubling the original fundraising goal. Legion officials noted that Guy's leadership in the project reflects the organization's core commitment to supporting local youth and community welfare.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR KENOSHA POST 21

It's election time, and with new leadership comes new beginnings for all members of the Legion, Sons and Auxiliary. To maximize opportunities for continuous improvement, Post 21 has been participating in ongoing leadership training. Sessions are facilitated by Legion Post 21 Community Service Officer, Tim O'Brien, PhD, and retired Professor of Management. The training is open to all Post 21 family members.



Tim O'Brien
Post 21
Community
Service Officer

The training syllabus includes:

- Communication and Dialogue
- The Fifth Discipline: The Art and Practice of the Learning Organization
- Servant Leadership and Level 5 Leadership
- The Incomplete Leader and Transformational Leadership
- Authentic Leadership and Ethics.

Sessions take place on the first Monday of each month. Participants are enjoying the course content, as well as building camaraderie with other members of the Post 21 family.



HUBERTUS SQUADRON 522 EVENT ROLLS IN OVER \$15K

The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 522 in Hubertus held their 4th Annual 9-Pin Tap Bowling Tournament at Pioneer Bowl in Richfield on Saturday, April 18. The event hosted 81 bowlers, along with lots of friends and family who showed up to support the cause by participating in the many different raffles that were available.

Because of this, over \$15,000 was raised for local veterans organizations throughout the area, making this the most successful bowling tournament thus far. The Squadron wishes to thank all of the bowlers, lane sponsors, raffle donors, and supporters who made this event a tremendous success, and look forward to doing it again next spring!



POST 21 HOSTS LAW DAY FOR KENOSHA STUDENTS

Kenosha American Legion Post 21 has sponsored a "Law Day" for area students for over 40 years on May 5, 2026. This year's theme was "Investing in the Future of Justice." This event is one of our best. It highlights the enthusiasm of our county government; as well as providing an opportunity to spend the day with some amazing kids and teachers from the area.

The students learned about each department directly from Kenosha officials including the County Executive, Sheriff, Police Chief, Treasurer, Regis-



ter of Deeds, District Attorney, County Clerk, Circuit Court Clerk, and even a State Legislator. They are always happy to take time out of their busy day to participate in Law Day.

Students were given a tour of the Kenosha Safety Building including 911 Dispatch,

Detective Bureau, Evidence Collection, Emergency Management Center, and even sat in a squad car, followed by a tour of the historic Kenosha Courthouse, learning about the local legal system. The day concluded with a great sloppy joe lunch served by the American Legion family at the Post. These students wrote essays on the theme, and the winners attended the Post 21 Law Day at the State Capitol in Madison on May 13, including a tour of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. We are looking forward to next year already.

VCF DONATIONS

Department Vice Commander Steve Kohnke presents checks to Past National Commander Rohan and Past National Commander Seehafer on behalf of the Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF) in the amount of \$5,000. In addition, donations were also secured for the Troop and Family Support Fund in the amount of \$5,000, along with a \$1,000 Gold Level Sponsorship for this year's Convention Program. These generous contributions were made possible through IBEW Local 494, whose members continue to demonstrate their commitment to supporting veterans, military families, and the community through their ongoing charitable efforts.



NEW MEMBER, DONATION FOR POST 395



LEFT: On May 5, Kingston Post 395 welcomed new member Dan Finger. Dan is with Post 395 Commander Derek Kohn. **RIGHT:** Commander Kohn accepts a donation from Richard Murray.



QUILTS OF VALOR AT POST 236 ALGOMA

Four Algoma Post 236 members received personalized Quilts of Valor. L-R Randy Remiker, John Ortlieb, Zeno Preimesberger and Jeff Ferris.



IAEI DONATION



Department Vice Commander Steve Kohnke secured a \$500 donation from the Wisconsin Chapter of the Independent Alliance of the Electrical Industry recently when he ended his year of service to that organization as Chapter President. Seen here presenting it to Rosanna Bogle of the Department Fundraising committee.



POST 143 SCHOLARSHIPS

On April 29, American Legion Post 143 St. Croix Falls 1st Vice Commander Roger Northquest was at the class of 2026 scholarship and awards night. We gave two scholarship for \$500 each. The American Legion Citizenship Award went to Lucas Hale also was Badger Boys State and the American Legion Americanism Award went to Fiona Hendricks also was Badger Girls State.



MANITOWOC COUNTY LEADERSHIP RE-ELECTED



Nancy Rivera of Post 477 – St. Nazianz and Tom Pope of Post 88 – Manitowoc have been reelected to new terms as County Commander and Vice Commander, respectively. They were formally sworn in during a recent ceremony, where the oath of office was administered by The American Legion National Vice Commander Steve Weismann during his visit to Worthington Enterprises in Chilton. Worthington Enterprises was honored as the recipient of the 2025 Department of Wisconsin Employer of Veterans Award.

MAZOMANIE POST 437 OFFICERS




3rd District Commander Dan O'Brien swore in Mazomanie Post 437 Officers on Tuesday 5/5/26. Pictured from the left are; Historian Frank Wolf, Sgt-At-Arms Phil Haas, Chaplain Virgil Smith, Adjutant Jim DeVoe, 1st Vice Commander Pamela Greisen, Commander Paul Maier, Finance Officer Earland Niendorf and 3rd District Commander Dan O'Brien.

POST 268 BRUCE SWEARING IN



Earl J. Conley Post 268 in Bruce held its annual swearing in of officers. Rusk County Commander Bob Franzen performed the swearing in of: Bob Fry, 1st Vice Commander; Judy Simpson, Finance Officer; Rick Ensenbach, Commander; Tom Michaud, Sergeant-at-Arms; Dave Brainerd, 2nd Vice Commander; Mike Newman, Chaplain; and Jim Lee, Adjutant.

THE 250 CLUB — DONATION FORM	
Wisconsin American Legion Foundation, Inc. • P.O. Box 827 • Portage, WI 53901-0827	
DONOR INFORMATION	
Name: _____	Post/Unit/Squadron/Chapter #: _____
Address: _____	City: _____
State: _____ ZIP: _____	
Phone: _____	Email: _____
MY GIFT SELECTION	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 One-Time Gift — A powerful single investment in perpetuity <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 per year for 3 years (\$750 total) — Full 250 Club commitment <input type="checkbox"/> \$85 per year for 3 years (\$255 total) — Accessible path to lasting legacy <input type="checkbox"/> Post Commitment: <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze (\$250) <input type="checkbox"/> Silver (\$750) <input type="checkbox"/> Gold (\$1,500) <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum (\$3,000) <input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount: \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> One-time <input type="checkbox"/> Annual for 3 years	
Or, donate online by clicking on the QR code.	
	
PAYMENT METHOD	
<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK ENCLOSED (payable to: Wisconsin American Legion Foundation, Inc.) <input type="checkbox"/> CREDIT CARD <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> American Express	
Card Number: _____	Exp. Date: _____ / _____
Name on Card: _____	CVV: _____
Signature: _____	Date: _____
Return to: Wisconsin American Legion Foundation, Inc. • P.O. Box 827 • Portage, WI 53901-0827 Questions? Contact Department Headquarters • www.wilegion.org/foundation/the-250-Club	
Early supporters who commit by September 1, 2026, will be recognized as "Founding Investors" in campaign materials and on the Foundation website. For God and Country — Join The 250 Club Today: www.wilegion.org/foundation/the-250-Club	



Denise Rohan
Foundation
President

WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION, INC.

JOIN "THE 250 CLUB"

**A GIFT THAT NEVER ENDS
— BECAUSE WISCONSIN'S HEROES
DESERVE A PERMANENT LEGACY**

What if a single act of generosity could still be helping Wisconsin's veterans' children a century from now? That is not a dream—that's the promise behind The 250 Club, the cornerstone campaign of the Wisconsin American Legion Foundation, Inc. The 250 Club is built on one powerful idea: your donation is never spent! It works—in perpetuity—for Wisconsin children and youth who follow.

The Foundation has launched an ambitious three-year drive to raise \$1.5 million in permanent endowments supporting distinct programs that honor veterans' families, student leaders, athletes, and civic-minded youth across our state. The math is simple: if just 2,000 Legion family members commit to \$250 annually for three years, we reach our goal—together.

**YOUR MONEY NEVER GETS SPENT
— IT WORKS FOREVER**

This is not your typical fundraising drive. With most charitable campaigns, the money is collected, distributed, and gone. The 250 Club operates on a perpetual endowment model—a fundamentally different approach that transforms every dollar into a permanent, self-sustaining asset.

Here is how it works: every dollar raised goes directly into an invested endowment. The principal—the money you donate—is never touched. Only the interest earned each year is used to fund programs. Any interest earned beyond what is needed for that year's awards is reinvested, growing the fund even larger. The endowment gains strength year after year, decade after decade.

Consider what that means for your \$250. In a fully funded endowment, your gift is one of 6,000 contributions building a \$1.5 million foundation that provides \$75,000 every single year in program support—year after year, long after all of us are gone. Your children's grandchildren may one day benefit from the fund you helped create today.

OFFICER INSTALLATION MARKS HISTORIC MOMENT FOR BERLIN AMERICAN LEGION, AUXILIARY

American Legion Post 340 of Berlin, and its Auxiliary Unit proudly announce the installation of their new officers for the coming year. This leadership team continues to represent the dedication, service, and shared commitment to supporting veterans, their families, and the community.

In a historic milestone for the post, Dawn Putzke has been installed as Commander of American Legion Post 340, becoming the first female commander in the Post's history. Her election marks a breakthrough moment, not only for the Post, but also for the broader Veteran community, reflecting the growing leadership role of women who have served our country.

Adding to this special occasion is a unique family connection that highlights a legacy of

service. The newly installed commander is the daughter of Barb Resop, who continues to serve as President of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit supporting Post 340. Their simultaneous leadership roles symbolize a powerful example of family dedication to the mission of the American Legion and its Auxiliary: honoring veterans, supporting military families, mentoring youth, and strengthening the community.

Together, this mother-daughter leadership team represents generations of commitment to service and patriotism. Their roles also demonstrate the close partnership between the American Legion Post and the Auxiliary Unit, both of which work hand-in-hand to carry out programs that benefit veterans and their families.



Front row: Dawn Putzke, Commander; Monica Dolata, Service Officer; Shannon Congdon, Sgt-at-Arms; Christina Cujak, 2nd Vice Commander; and Beverly Chadwick, Historian. Back row: Chris Ingraham, Judge Advocate; Lindsay Johnson, Sgt-at-Arms; Gary Lawrence, 1st Vice Commander; and Steve Klika, Adjutant/Finance Officer.

POST 534 THANKS

Ray Schara of McFarland Post 534 (left) received a Thank You plaque from Commander Cory Gessler for 5,000 volunteer hours. He has 18 years membership. He has performed at 2,500 veterans' funerals.



WAUSAU CHAMBER BUSINESS EXPO

The Wausau American Legion Post 10 has a booth every year at the Wausau Chamber of Commerce annual Business Expo. This year the Expo was held on Thursday, April 16. Two hundred and seventy-one businesses had a booth for the one-day event. Our post members were able to talk with thousands of attendees including the business vendors. We promoted all the things that we do for our community and veterans including our veterans meal program and 100

veteran banners that are on display on our main streets from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. The banners are sponsored every year by our local business community members

Facebook quote... What a team! Thank you to everyone that attended the Business Expo yesterday. If you did not get to attend and see our booth you can always get more information about us on our website at Wausau Post 10 or our Facebook page.

ALLENTON POST 483 HONORS THEIR HOMETOWN HEROES

At the April monthly meeting of Allenton Legion Post 483 we presented our "Hometown Hero Awards." The winners are shown here.

Lt. Chad Kohler of the City of West Bend received the Edward R. Ormsby Law and Order award. Lt. Kohler was nominated by our long time member Wally Kohler, Chad's grandfather. Lt. Kohler is bright light leading the West Bend PD with a dedication to continue to learn to be a better police officer than he was.

Lt. Ben Wolf of the Allenton Vol. Fire Department was awarded the outstanding EMT of the Year Award. Ben is an inspiring young man with 5 years of service to the Allenton Fire Department. Ben is a fourth generation of the Albert Wolf family involved in the leadership of the Allenton Fire Department.

Mr. Nate Grimm of the Slinger High School Social Studies Department received the Past National Commander, Denise H. Rohan Educator of the Year Award. Mr. Grimm has been a leader in the Slinger School District promoting our veterans, veterans causes. He especially has been very involved with getting students involved with Wreaths Across America and Stars and Stripes Honor Flights.

Second Vice Commander Ron Naab received the "Gung Ho" Veteran of the Year. Has been a



Commander Chris Klein-Wassink and Awards Committee Chair Ron Naab presented award to (above left) Post 483 Nate Grimm, (above right) Post 483 Lt. Ben Wolf, (at left) Post 483 Lt. Chad Kohler.

huge contributor to the Allenton area as a 60 year member of the Allenton Fire Department and a 50+ year member of the Allenton American Legion. All four were also notified that they received their respective awards at the American Legion Washington County Council which will be presented in June.



**Julie Muhle
Department
Adjutant**

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

There has been some confusion regarding membership and the numbers, so hopefully this helps.

Membership is counted ONLY by members who have paid. If your goal is 50 members, it is 50 paid members. If you have 49 paid members and 10 members on your roster who haven't paid, they don't count against your membership other than the fact that you have to either get one more of them to renew, find a new member or transfer a member from the 2930AD post. Even if those 10 members were removed, you would still need one more member to reach your goal.

I cannot remove members from your roster. National removes them mostly after two years, however some stay on longer. My post has a member on our roster who hasn't paid for the past 5 years. Someday he will drop off. Deceased members will typically be removed at the end of the membership year unless they pass away at the end of the membership year.

As we get toward the end of this membership year, as a reminder, each post's goal will be increased by two. The number of members you have as of June 30, 2026, will be increased by two. This encourages continual growth yet will accommodate Posts that have a bad year with their members who go to Post Everlasting. There is still 300,000+ veterans in the state of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin American Legion only has a little over 40,000!

PEWAUKEE EASTER EGG HUNT



Members from Pewaukee Post 71 attend the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Pewaukee Village Park on April 4.



McFARLAND QUILTS OF VALOR

Edwards-Foye American Legion Post 534 in McFarland hosted a Quilts of Valor ceremony for local veterans. The ceremony was conducted on March 22, 2026. Quilt recipients were Don Cowan, Juan Flores, Lee Lambright, Bruce Neuman, Shane Ruby, Daryl Rupnow, Christifor Smith, Mike Webster, John Winburn, Webb Winn, Donald McCull, Mick Schumway, Chuck Dintelman and Donald Dean.

LEGION RIDERS VSO DONATION

District 11 American Legion Riders make donation to Price County Veteran Service Office for needy veterans.



**Debbie Thomas
Children & Youth
Department Chair**

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Do you know the difference between the Americanism and Children & Youth (C&Y) programs?

The Legion's pillar of Americanism embodies its devotion to law and order, the raising of wholesome youth, and educates a law-abiding citizenship and the respectful observance of patriotic holidays and remembrances. Some programs include Boys State, Oratorical, Jr Shooting Sports, Scouts, and Baseball/Softball teams.

The Children and Youth program manages a pillar of service guided by three main objectives: to strengthen the family unit; to support quality organizations that provide services for Children and Youth; and to provide communities with well-rounded programs that meet the physical, educational and spiritual needs of young people.

The American Legion's C&Y pillar's most critical issues are: Child Pornography, Catastrophic Illness, Intellectual Disabilities, Immunization of Needy Children, Family Integrity, Media Violence, and Drug Abuse.

Temporary Financial Assistance is cash assistance to help with the basic needs of minor children of eligible active-duty members and Veterans, when all other services of assistance

have been exhausted. This fund provides the minor child with food, medical, and housing needs, it does not pay-off the family debt.

Family Support-provides immediate assistance to US military personnel and family whose lives have been directly affected by the War on Terrorism.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) is the foremost philanthropic priority of The American Legion. The CWF provides other non-profit organizations with grants to educate the public about the needs of children across the nation.

To get more information on the Four Pillars of The American Legion and its programs, check out legion.org. If you have questions about different sources of aid, please contact your Post Commander or the Department Adjutant for additional information. Don't forget to support our Department programs, please consider making a donation.

The Department Convention will soon be upon us and the C&Y committee will be presenting a PowerPoint presentation on the Convention floor. We will also have a vendor table and information will be made available. Don't forget to bring your Pop-tabs to Convention and drop off at our vendor table. Proceeds from the tabs will be given to the Ronald MacDonald house in Milwaukee.



**James Bond
WDVA
Secretary**

WDVA SECRETARY

Greetings Legionnaires! I want to thank all Legion and Auxiliary members who attended, volunteered, and participated in Memorial Day events at our veterans' memorial cemeteries this year. It is an honor to participate in these ceremonies commemorating the sacrifice of all those who have died in service to the United States. On behalf of WDVA, I want to express our deep appreciation for helping us serve and honor Veterans.

For many, Memorial Day has become the unofficial start of summer and this year, we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of our nation. Our colleagues at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum have been working in partnership with the Wisconsin Historical Society to promote and organize opportunities across Wisconsin – from Superior to Milwaukee and everywhere in between – in a shared commitment to ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to be part of this historic milestone. I encourage you to take advantage of some of these special and historic opportunities as we approach July 4th. You can find more information on Wisconsin's America 250 celebrations at WisVetsMuseum.com.

Additionally, I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the American Legion/Auxiliary Annual Conference in Appleton on July 17. I enjoy seeing so many familiar faces, catching up with old friends, and making new ones. Our partnership remains a bedrock for serving veterans and their families, especially as we face future challenges in fulfilling our shared mission.

Unfortunately, even in this age of social media and instant communication, too many veterans remain unaware of the benefits they've earned. Since becoming Secretary, I have been working to raise awareness. Wherever I go and whenever I can, I try and find a way to encourage veterans to sign up and access the benefits available to them. I hope you'll consider doing the same as you are out and about this summer at community festivals and special events. You'll be surprised by how many veterans do not know about some of these benefits, like the Wisconsin G.I. Bill, or that their spouses and their children could be taking advantage of them to make their lives better.

Don't be afraid to talk to your fellow veterans, I'm sure no one will get offended. Encourage them to check out our website, WisVets.com. Let them know they can contact our Veteran Benefits Resource Center (1-800-947-8387) to find out what may be available. We want to do all we can for veterans who have served our country and their families, and you can help us do that.

Thank you for always being WDVA's steadfast partner in serving our fellow veterans and their families. And please join us in wishing a Happy 250th Birthday to the United States of America!

Yours in Service,

*James Bond
Secretary*

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION: AN UPDATE ON CAMP



“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



Jim Klement
Camp American
Legion Director

As Camp American Legion continues to serve our veterans, so in turn camp will need to consistently improve. Here are some of the great updates with in the last year.

Cabin 8 – Waupaca County has been fundraising for years to replace their old cabin. Their

dreams have finally come to life as we now have a beautiful new cabin 8. This went from a open concept four bed to a two bedroom and one bath cabin. This is a great addition to Camp American Legion and I am sure the veterans will enjoy for years to come.

Cabin 11 – Columbia County has also been fundraising and as of right now (May) their cabin has been completely demolished and hopefully by 1 June a new cabin will be standing tall where the old one once did.

Fit Pit Area and Ramp – Thank you to the Cudworth American Legion Foundation, Inc. for sponsoring our new firepit and ramp. The fire pit is now a beautiful stamped concrete pad. If you have seen our

ramp leading towards the main lodge you understand why it needed to be replaced. There were cracks and divots that would prevent a walker going over.

Pavilion Picnic Area – Where the old cabin 18 was there will be a brand-new pavilion picnic area and just a great place to relax. It is in one of the best spots at camp where the fishing is good and away from the busy main lodge.

Donations – We have received some great donations this winter/spring. We received a Ford Transit van from District 10 Legion Family. County Fresh Meats donated a bunch of different meats, soups and kitchen equipment. Another brand new 50hp Mercury Outboard from Mercury Marine. Jim Kosharek brought up cases of ground beef, chicken quarters and canned goods. District 7 Riders brought a truck full of goods that they raised from their brat every year.

Camp relies heavily on donations to keep camp operating and these wonderful organizations and people have done their part to making sure that Camp will be here for the next 100 years.

Thank You,
Jim Klement, Camp Director



Jim Kosharek, His annual trip to deliver canned goods, ground meat and chicken quarters. He has been doing this since 2019 and has delivered over \$25,000 worth of goods.

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.



Jerry Hook
Membership
Chair

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP

I want to start by thanking each and every one of you for the work you do to support our Veterans / Service Members and their families, youth, families, our communities and our Great Nation. Mission, Purpose, Relevance. We can and will grow our membership.

We are all asked to reach out to Veterans and Service Members and their families to recruit and retain them in our Legion Family. Please continue serving inspiring, guiding, leading. (We have many tools to help – <https://wilegion.org/membership-forms-%26-tools> – one of the items that may be helpful to Posts if you are looking for ideas is the Yearly Post Membership Map.



Morris Sadicario
Department
Historian

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

We are approaching the end of our working year. At the July Department Convention, we begin the process of selecting our new leadership team. Historians will look back on the year, and many will have completed their yearbooks. Some yearbooks will have been submitted to the Department for the Wisconsin contest. Recognition and commendations will be given to those who have made significant progress in

improving Wisconsin's American Legion.

Among the awards will be the 2025-2026 Martha Marlowe Historian of the Year award. This year, it will be presented to Charles Konsitzke, Team Leader of the University of Wisconsin-Madison MIA-RIP. In the MIA-RIP endeavor, Charles and his team used historical, investigative, and technical procedures to locate, verify, and ultimately repatriate US soldiers. His presentations to American Legion members were always interesting and often captivating. Charles appeared before several Wisconsin Senate committees, including the recent one to establish state funding for the MIA-RIP program. This program is currently funded entirely by private donations.

Charles Konsitzke manages the UW Biotech lab when he is not involved with the UW MIA RIP.

This is also the time for turning in the year's historical documents. The Commander-and-Team Yearbook will be presented to Commander Nathan Bond and to Vice-Commanders Larry Larsen, Steven Kohnke, David Steinert, and Rita Rindahl. This Department yearbook will also be submitted in digital format by our Department Adjutant to the National Library for the Department yearbook competition. Last year's entrants can be viewed at <https://legionhistoryshowcase.omeka.net/exhibits/show/2025entries/2025-contest-and-showcase-info>



James Fialkowski
Department Veterans
Service Officer

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

Hello Legion Family. I have spoken before about presumptive illnesses. How the “presumption” fills the third piece of the three-piece puzzle for service connection. As a reminder the three pieces are: 1 – Current disability, 2 - Service relation (Something happened in service or something already service connected that could be related to the current disabling condition), and 3 – Nexus (medical opinion that numbers one and two are related).

When an illness is added to the presumptive list by the Veterans Administration (VA), the third piece is automatic, barring overwhelming evidence to contradict the etiology. An example of overwhelming evidence of contradiction of etiology: An Agent Orange exposed veteran claims Diabetes Mellitus Type II (DMII), which is on the presumptive list, but there is medical evidence that the DMII happened due to surgical removal of an accident damaged pancreas. Getting accepted as presumptive speeds up the process of receiving deserved and often needed benefits.

I wrote several articles about rules, court cases, and laws making changes to benefits. The articles covered items such as, the VA added eight presumptive disabilities associated with exposure to contaminants in the on-base water-supply at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, the incredible impact the Nehmer court case has on the Agent Orange presumptive list and “In Country” veterans and their families, and the PACT Act, which created multiple expansions to conceded exposures and presumptive conditions.

I wrote about how amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease) is a presumptively compensable illness for all veterans with 90 days or more of continuously active service in the military. ALS was added to the registry as a presumptive illness, based primarily on a November 2006 report by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine (IOM) on the association between active-duty service and ALS. The report indicated “Veterans are developing ALS in rates higher than the

general population, and it was appropriate to take action,” Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake said.

Lawmakers and the VA are increasingly updating presumptive disability lists based on scientific studies, with Toxic Exposure Screenings (TES) acting as a vital data source for identifying service-connected health conditions. The PACT Act solidified this, accelerating benefits for many toxic-exposed veterans.

Doing our part in TES data collection helps create associations of diseases to our unique demographics, enabling the decision to update the presumptive disability lists based on scientific studies.

I urge those that are eligible to participate in the VA's multiple environmental health registry evaluations for veterans. You may be eligible to participate in one or more of these health registries:

- Agent Orange Registry
- Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry
- Gulf War Registry (includes Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn)
- Ionizing Radiation Registry
- Depleted Uranium Follow-Up Program
- Toxic Embedded Fragment Surveillance Center

The VA does not have a specific “registry” for Camp Lejeune toxic water in the same way it does for Agent Orange, but it does offer Toxic Exposure Screening.

Note: If you are one of the many involved in the CL Tort lawsuit under the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022, you can check the status of your lawsuit by contacting the Department of Justice by phone or email: Call 202-353-4426 (TTY: 711), or email to camplejeune.pactact@usdoj.gov

Doing our part in the data collection helps those who served before us, served with us, and leaves a legacy for those who serve now and in the future.

For more information contact your CVSO or our office. To find your CVSO you can go to their website – <https://wievso.org/locate-your-cvso/> or call (844) 947-2876. To contact our office, call (414) 902-5722.



Robert Patrouille

PATROUILLE'S LONG SERVICE

In 1960, Robert Patrouille joined the Wisconsin National Guard as an infantryman with A CO 2-127 32nd Infantry Brigade. Throughout his career, 1SG Patrouille held multiple leadership positions to include Team Leader, Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, and ultimately, First Sergeant, a position he held for five years. On October 15, 1961, then, Private Patrouille was mobilized as part of the 32nd Infantry Division to Fort Lewis Washington in support of the Berlin Crisis. The 32nd became the first National Guard unit mobilized to advance American foreign policy that aimed to prevent a third world war. In addition to his federal activation, 1SG Patrouille was mobilized for multiple State Active-duty missions to include Gresham, WI Menominee Indian Uprising, UW Madison civil unrest, Wisconsin Correctional Officer Strike, and several natural disasters.

In 1990, 1SG Patrouille was assigned as a Recruiter for the Fond du Lac, Waupun, and Ripon areas, a position he held until his retirement in 2000.

1SG Patrouille was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal and multiple other federal and state awards. He was awarded the prestigious Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel Wisconsin Military Achievement Award which is presented to the finest enlisted Soldier in the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

Even after his retirement in 2000, 1SG Patrouille continued to serve the Wisconsin Army National Guard through the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Program. Having served in this capacity for several years, he worked closely with Service Members and their employers to reach an amicable solution to any conflicts that arose.

1SG Patrouille served his community in many different facets. He served as a 4-H Leader—Burnett Club, Meat and Animal Board member for Dodge County, Dodge County Fair Board Committee, and Board Member of the Dodge County Veterans Services. Many years, he served as a member of Waupun Post 210 Honor Guard. For the last 19 years, he has served as the Commander of Waupun American Legion Post Unit 210.

ANNUAL HONORS AT ST. NAZIANZ



American Legion Post and Sons of the American Legion Squadron 477 St. Nazianz recognized their 2025 Legionnaire and SAL Member of the Year. LEFT: Post Commander, Kevin Nett, recognized USAF Veteran Gary Bonnett as the Legionnaire of the Year. RIGHT: Dan Reinke accepted the SAL Member of the Year award from Squadron Commander Ken Skattebo.

FINAL NAVY REENLISTMENT IN SURING



LTC Jenna Joppe's final reenlistment in the United States Navy at American Legion Post #283 in Suring, WI. The oath of office was proudly administered by her father, Retired USAF MSgt and American Legion Member Joe School, alongside Post 283 Finance Officer LtCol Betsy Arndt.

NEW LEADERSHIP IN POYNETTE



LEFT: The new leaders from Poynette Post 271 are SAL Detachment Commander Dan Thurston, Auxiliary Unit President Heather Holy, Post Commander Mike McFadden. RIGHT: The new Poynette Squadron 271 officers are left to right: Adjutant Jake Enger, Treasurer Tim Pahlman, Commander Dan Thurston and Sergeant at Arms Phil Landini.

BLACK EARTH QUILT



Black Earth American Legion Post 313 Commander Gary Ballweg (L) was part of a Quilt of Valor presentation to Post 313 member Bo Olson (R).

BADGER HONOR FLIGHT



Happy faces await the Mission 64 Badger Honor Flight departure from Madison. Department Historian Morris Sadicario and Madison Post 501 Service Officer Phil Jr will stay behind. Guardian Joseph Henrikson (not a Post 501 member), Jerry Henrikson, Lisa Kromanaker (flight nurse), and Post 501 Commander Jerry Scalissi leave.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



Virgil Smith
Department
Chaplain

THE HORIZON OF HOPE: A REFLECTION ON PSALM 36:5-12

In a world that often feels chaotic and unpredictable, **Psalm 36:5-12** provides a powerful framework for understanding the nature of God. The passage marks a dramatic shift, moving from a description of human rebellion to a breathtaking exploration of His Divine love. By using the grandest elements of nature, the psalmist helps us visualize qualities that are otherwise too vast to comprehend.

The Scale of His Divine Character

The passage begins by connecting God's attributes to the physical horizon. It describes His **unfailing love** as reaching the heavens and His **faithfulness** as extending to the clouds. These metaphors suggest that God's grace is an unlimited resource; it is as constant and essential as the air we breathe.

- **Righteousness like the mountains:** This imagery represents a moral foundation that is firm, unmoving, and visible from a great distance.

- **Justice like the great deep:** This suggests a profound depth and complexity, implying that God's ways carry more weight than what we see on the surface.

A Sanctuary for All

One of the most comforting transitions occurs in verse 7: "*How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.*" Here, the God who governs the vast cosmos is also presented as a personal **protector**. The passage describes a "feast" of abundance, reminding us that in the Divine presence, we are not just surviving on the leftovers of hope, but drinking from a "river of delights."

The Fountain of Life

The heart of this passage is found in verse 9: "*For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.*" This serves as a vital reminder for anyone feeling spiritually or emotionally drained. The text portrays God not as a stagnant pool that might dry up, but as a **fountain**—a continuous, active source of renewal and clarity.

A Prayer for Protection

The Psalmist concludes with a grounded request for God to continue His love and protection from the "feet of the proud." It acknowledges the reality of earthly struggles while maintaining focus on a higher power.

Conclusion

Ultimately, Psalm 36:5-12 invites us to change our perspective. When we align our focus with the height of the heavens and the depth of the sea, our daily anxieties begin to lose their grip. We find ourselves held by a love that is both **cosmic in its reach** and **deeply personal in its care**.

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN



Nathan Coward
Chairman

Your American Legion Legislative Committee has been working hard on behalf of veterans over the past year. The following are veteran-related Wisconsin state-level bills signed into law, and a brief explanation. If you have further questions about any of the enacted legislation, you can look up the bills on the Wisconsin State Legislature website, legis.wisconsin.gov, or contact the American Legion Department

of Wisconsin Legislative Committee.

- SB 38 (Act 50) Waives the personalized registration plate fees for Gold Star Family special registration plates.

- AB 597 (Act 154) creates a matching \$25 grant program for the private VA-funded homeless transition programs. The bills will have no impact on WDVA's ability to serve homeless veterans, but the WDVA will be required to administer the grants. Only four entities in the state are eligible: Porchlight Inc., in Madison; Rock Valley Community Programs, Inc., in Janesville; Center for Veterans Issues Ltd., in Milwaukee; and Guest House of Milwaukee, Inc.

- SB 387 (Act 207) Guard and Reserve members' veteran identifier on operator's license and ID card.

- SB 810 (Act 206) increases the maximum stipend payment for Military Funeral Honors to \$100 and makes Hmong Lao fighters who were naturalized under the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000 eligible for Military Funeral Honors.

- AB 913 (Act 205) provides a state income tax exemption for members of the National Guard and Reserves.

- AB 659 (Act 155) reduces the residency requirement for the Wisconsin GI Bill and the Wisconsin Grant for Private Nonprofit Schools from 5 years to 3 years.

- AB 935 (Act 138) is a clean-up bill that clarified language in existing bills and repealed two long-expired WDVA programs

- AB 134 (Act 204) alternative open enrollment application procedures for residency change based on military orders.

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

1 Germantown	Ronald H. Etzel V	16 Greenfield	Roy J. Leda V
Kenneth F. Miller V	19 Hartford	Edward L. Patoka	
6 Stevens Point	Thomas J. Phillip V	20 Waterford	Gerald B. Beffa V
7 Rhinelander	Walter J. Yunk Sr. WWII	27 South Milwaukee	David Benske V
James G. Dombek V	John L. Manowski V	29 Kewaunee	Norbert Beining V
8 Waukesha	Roger T. Bjerke K	Robert L. Ross K	30 Edgerton
Wilbert Goldman K	John A. Harm K	Richard A. Van Alstine K	Stanley C. Marx V
James E. Tinnis V	10 Wausau	Eldred M. Mielke	73 Neillville
Clem J. Folz K	Arthur F. Koepke WWII	Philip Hamilton V	77 Chippewa Falls
Wil Allmandinger K	James McMenemy V	Guy Martinek V	38 Appleton
11 Green Bay	Mathias Schoepp WWII	Michael Woolf V	42 Platteville
Wayne P. Schaut K	Gerald W. Schrader V	Robert Kielman K	44 Wabeno
13 Richland Center	Harold D. Clark K	Peter A. Jensen V	Robert W. Arnold K
15 Juneau	Aaron R. Klink K	Robert W. Arnold K	Frank Eames K

46 Merrill	Robert Opsahl K	89 Minocqua	Sylvester C. Hraban K
Herman F. Zunker Jr. V	Michael L. Peeters V	Donald M. Henrickson K	90 Ashland
Philip F. Krause V	Gerald E. Plamann V	Rodney N. Asplund K	Harley S. Hagstrom
48 Beloit	Roger A. Stenberg V	Kenneth Aubol WWII	94 Crandon
Rolland W. Skogstad K	Donald C. Mortenson K	Robert J. Keller V	Hilary B. Yenter K
Richard R. Kinzer V	52 La Crosse	Ward F. Leach V	Kenneth Aubol WWII
Stephen T. McNabb K	Duane K. Moore K	95 Delavan	Robert G. Piraro Sr. WWII
James L. Nagle V	William W. McMullin K	Bart Walsh K	Eugene Gallup WWII
James F. Kadlec V	Glen Tamke K	Lewis M. Oder K	Richard Gromacki V
53 Eau Claire	Karl L. Erickson K	Richard Gromacki V	Frank E. Bunnell K
Marlin Hammond WWII	Steven A. Kallenbach V	Roger G. Wuttke V	Roger G. Wuttke V
Gene Dahlheimer K	Dean Haldeman K	105 Shullsburg	Frank E. Teutschmann K
56 Fountain City	Louis Duellman K	Robert E. McCrary Jr. V	108 Clear Lake
James Alleva V	Michael P. Henning V	Peter Fall V	110 New Lisbon
59 Stoughton	Ralph G. Spaulding WWII	James Rydmark GWOT	James R. Schachtely V
Bruce G. Felland K	Llewellyn A. Torngren K	James R. Lynn V	114 Eagle River
David W. Pernot V	James D. Dalbesio III V	Patricia R. White V	James R. Lynn V
63 Clintonville	Susan Vich V	Gerald Morrow V	121 Stanley
Duwayne J. Novak V	John L. Gilbertson V	Dick Baumgarten V	Gerald Morrow V
64 Tony	William H. Ogle K	122 Phillips	James D. Dalbesio III V
Marty Reynolds V	Jack J. Hines K	John C. Gilbertson V	James D. Dalbesio III V
65 Nekoosa	John A. Serio V	129 Black River Falls	Sandra S. Winneshiek V
James J. Starr V	Robert Alan Slaney PG	William H. Ogle K	134 Boscobel
69 Mayville	William J. Parrell K	Jack J. Hines K	Dennis A. King V
Stanley C. Marx V	Ricky Garner V	205 Janesville	Earl V. Gruendeman K
73 Neillville	Robert Wachter V	Donald E. Negus K	Earl V. Gruendeman K
Lowell Gress K	329 Briggsville	Eldyn G. Dorst V	Enoch Cordes V
Philip Hamilton V	David L. Boehmke K	Roger Neuhoff V	139 Pewaukee
38 Appleton	James R. Bennett Sr. K	209 Orfordville	Robert E. Immel V
Guy Martinek V	Richard J. Amelse V	Clinton Zettle V	Arthur J. Roberts V
Michael Woolf V	W.R. Cress WWII	212 Barron	Darryl D. Dagestad V
44 Wabeno	Lawrence A. Maly K	Roger D. Bender V	146 Beaver Dam
Robert Kielman K	James M. Langsdorf V	Herbert W. Copus V	Delbert E. Yaroch V
Robert W. Arnold K	John L. Stock V	225 Shell Lake	Byron Wickman V
Peter A. Jensen V	Keith L. Briggs K	148 Bloomington	Robert L. Parkins K
45 Elkhorn	Thomas Peek V	Robert L. Parkins K	149 Sheboygan Falls
Robert W. Arnold K	Thomas W. Kessler V	Jerome J. Koene K	Jerome J. Koene K
Frank Eames K	Lee T. Strozinsky K	Clifford Otte K	Clifford Otte K

Robert C. Weber K	150 Wausaukee	Jeffery Diener V	165 Two Rivers
Robert C. Weber K	Jeffery Diener V	Kurt Carlson V	170 Mineral Point
182 Park Falls	James Harris V	Vernon Palacheck WWII	Willard Washatka WWII
Richard Svec V	187 Wisconsin Dells	David J. Volkey V	189 Watertown
James E. Erickson K	Robert J. Schmutzler K	Armin D. Genz K	Harland Weber V
Wilmer L. Streblov K	Robert Lewis V	Olin C. Fimreite V	Timothy J. Lynch V
191 Whitehall	James Young V	Ronald B. Hanson V	Patricia R. White V
200 Black River Falls	Thomas J. Neuenfeldt V	294 Hartland	James E. McNeil V
James E. Tyler WWII	Wally Wynkoop V	300 Cecil	Wally Wynkoop V
Dick Baumgarten V	302 Oconto Falls	Roy G. Meier K	William Grady WWII
202 Chaseburg	John C. Fuerst V	303 Winter	John A. Serio V
John L. Gilbertson V	416 Greendale	Marion G. Stachowiak WWII	Andrew F. Litter K
204 Ellsworth	Andrew F. Litter K	Duane R. Rosenow V	Frank K. Lamonte K
William H. Ogle K	313 Black Earth	Frank K. Lamonte K	427 Greenfield
Jack J. Hines K	William J. Parrell K	431 Three Lakes	Lawrence D. Weinbrod WWII
205 Janesville	Ricky Garner V	433 Barnefield	Roland M. Dyreson V
Donald E. Negus K	Robert Wachter V	436 Wrightstown	Richard T. Rotzenberg V
Eldyn G. Dorst V	329 Briggsville	David A. Bukowski K	John L. Stock V
Roger Neuhoff V	David L. Boehmke K	449 Brookfield	James B. Obrien V
209 Orfordville	James R. Bennett Sr. K	Terry Mestan K	Kenneth A. Schultz K
Clinton Zettle V	Richard J. Amelse V	2930 Portage	Terry Mestan K
212 Barron	W.R. Cress WWII	Darryl S. Zernia V	Darryl S. Zernia V
Roger D. Bender V	Lawrence A. Maly K		
220 Soldiers Grove	James M. Langsdorf V		
Herbert W. Copus V	John L. Stock V		
225 Shell Lake	Keith L. Briggs K		
Byron Wickman V	Thomas Peek V		
229 Mount Hope	Thomas W. Kessler V		
James J. Schmitz V	Lee T. Strozinsky K		
230 De Pere			
Reginald D. Boldon K			

Frederick J. Burr V	Louis L. Miller PG
Joe Maier V	Joseph H. Tschachler WWII
David G. Olson V	452 Brantwood
342 Coleman	Otto E. Vyskocil K
Douglas S. Rymer K	454 Fond du Lac
Clint J. Wenzel G/L	Eugene A. Burg
343 Hancock	Lawrence Stubbs K
Joel A. Aanensen V	Ronald L. Rowe V
350 Reedsburg	455 Milwaukee
Cornelius W. Hyzer Sr. V	Mathew McKnight V
354 Ettrick	457 Mequon
Karoleen M. Hogden V	Arthur L. Haenig V
360 Waunakee	Aloys W. Hospel V
Joseph M. Milinowicz V	460 Belleville
363 Denmark	John Fischl V
William R. Karman V	461 Dunbar
Edwin R. Duckart V	Donald F. Hallada K
364 Winneconne	Lawrence R. Groy V
James L. Wolf V	464 Land O' Lakes
368 Hixton	David C. Hamp V
Orville M. Hagen V	469 Marathon
Lyle Chandler V	Robert R. Gage
372 Forestville	471 Birnamwood
Robert J. Neuville Sr. V	Henry J. Blarek Jr. V
379 Birchwood	Richard R. Thayer K
Donald Fuller K	473 Potosi
382 Menomonee Falls	Vernon C. Bartels V
Robert K. Schmitt K	474 Milwaukee
Robert L. Holly K	David J. Brand K
384 Kewaskum	478 Saint Cloud
Keith A. Springer PG	Murray E. Fry K
Howard H. Holland V	479 Milwaukee
Roger A. Heberer K	Clarence Hale Jr. WWII
412 Belgium	486 Jackson
Roger E. Schueller V	Ronald A. Taubenheim Sr. K
414 Wittenberg	517 Dorchester
Ronald L. Zarth WWII	Earl F. Wilhelmi V
John C. Fuerst V	518 Green Bay
416 Greendale	Daniel F. Wagner V
Marion G. Stachowiak WWII	521 Fox Lake
Andrew F. Litter K	Steven P. Tetzlaff V
Duane R. Rosenow V	525 Antigo
Frank K. Lamonte K	Arlan F. Summ V
427 Greenfield	532 Ffield
John B. Kaminski V	Ralph E. Chafer Jr. V
431 Three Lakes	541 Northfield
Lawrence D. Weinbrod WWII	William R. Simonson V
433 Barnefield	547 Withee
Roland M. Dyreson V	Donald L. Schindler V
436 Wrightstown	551 Lancaster
Richard T. Rotzenberg V	James R. Moore V
David A. Bukowski K	552 Somers
John L. Stock V	Merlin K. Anderson
449 Brookfield	Daniel P. Rodriguez V
James B. Obrien V	2930 Portage
Terry Mestan K	Terry Hensel V
Kenneth A. Schultz K	Darryl S. Zernia V

SHEBOYGAN POST 83 HOLDS ANNUAL BANQUET



Sheboygan Post 83 held its annual banquet in March and recognized some of its members for their years of service to the American Legion. From left to right Vice Commander Mark Winkel presenting the awards. Tom Heinrich 40 years, Carl "Smiley" Hinz and Tim Plumb 15 Years, and Tim George 20 years of continuous service, Post Adjutant Harvey McBroom assisting, congratulations all. The Post Auxiliary also held a basket raffle and raised over \$350 for sponsorship of a student to Badger Girls State.



6TH DISTRICT LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Tom Artz of Oshkosh, a member of The American Legion Post 234 in Omro, for being named the American Legion 6th District Legionnaire of the Year. Tom Artz was presented this award at the 62nd annual 6th District Americanism Recognition Banquet by, Department Commander Nathan Bond and 6th District Commander Ken Flock. The banquet was held at La Sure's Banquet Hall in Oshkosh on March 28.



LEGION RIDERS

District 11 American Legion Riders present flags at Vietnam Veterans Day at National Cemetery in Harshaw.



SHAWANO POST 117 HONORS LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

2025 Shawano Post 117 Legionnaire of the Year recipient Curt Wendorff (left) given by Post 117 Commander Kevin Barkow(right).



MEMBERSHIP

As I wind down my year as Membership Chair for the Department of Wisconsin, I want to thank each and every one of you for all you do for the American Legion Auxiliary, our veterans and military, their families and our communities. I have traveled all around the state making personal visits to many of your units. From the smallest units to some of our larger ones, I have been absolutely amazed and impressed by your dedication to service not self. Each of you truly touches the lives of your communities, veterans and military. I've seen how the smallest gesture of a simple phone call or card can have a huge impact on a person's life, making them feel remembered and valued.

In some of the reports I have gotten back, some units stated they did not know what our RV calls were. In keeping with the "National Parks" theme—**RV** stood for "**R**each out and **V**isit." It was a call to encourage units to **R**each out and **V**isit with those members who can no longer come to meetings, veterans in our nursing homes, or anyone struggling with depression—our youth, military, and veterans.

National has challenged us to reach the goal of 95% by June 12, 2026, Female Veteran's Day, and we are so very close! We are currently at 90.40%.

Let's help get President Sue to 95% by June 12th and 100% by convention! **R**each out and **V**isit those members who haven't renewed yet!

ALA WISCONSIN SUPPORTS CAMP AMERICAN LEGION



The American Legion has been fundraising to build a large shed at Camp American Legion to store pontoon boats and other equipment over the winter. On behalf of the generous Auxiliary units and members across Wisconsin, President Sue Hembrook presented a check for \$50,000 to Camp Director Jim Klement and Camp American Legion Committee Chair Jeff Zwiers to support this effort. They are planning to break ground this summer on the storage shed.

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING JUNE 30, 2026 AT 6:30 PM VIA ZOOM

All Past Presidents at the unit, county, district or department level are invited to attend the annual PPP Business Meeting. Rather than meeting at department convention, the meeting will be held virtually to encourage broader participation.

Please scan the QR code on
Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at 6:30 pm
to join the meeting!

PPP Dues (\$7) will be collected at convention
or may be mailed to:
Linda Coppock
N3894 Loss Road
Weyauwega WI 54983



SPRING SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS FOR 2026

Thank you to everyone who supported The American Legion Auxiliary's Spring Sweepstakes and made it so successful. Congratulations to all the winners!

\$500 AWARDS

Ralph Frydenlund
Betty Telvick
Sandy Prochnow
Barbara Ferrecki
Carol Kohl
Betty Telvick

\$400 AWARDS

Kaye Kmiec
Sheila Drea
Marg Wangeline
Mary Neumann
David Balling
Thomas Belisle
Donna Hart
Mary Crosby

\$300 AWARDS

David Gaulke
Mary Ertl
Richard Rouleau
Pam Abfall
Sue Nauman
Lori Boyum
Andrew Abfall
Robert Prelipp
Lynda Nowak
Karen Cukla
Gregory Engen
M&M Scott Holmes
Robert Miller, Jr.
Michael Lange
John Alferi
Thomas Eser

\$200 AWARDS

Susie Davidson
Denis Gloede
Kaia Glenn
William Noth
Edward & Linda Moline
Randy & Cindy Zydzik
Garland Gibson
Tracy Luedtke
Floyd Rose
Ralph Frydenlund
Alana Gross
Heidi Kozlowski
Cherilyn Hare
Don Riggs
Bruce Kraabel
Jerry Pelot
Donald Treinen
Katherine Lansing
Virginia Drath
Allen Searles

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP TEAM

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Department Chairman
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Andrea Stoltz
Membership
Program Coordinator
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**Membership
Totals
- 90.40%**
(as of 5/13/2026)

District	Goal %
4	99.79%
11	96.98%
3	93.31%
6	92.97%
2	92.39%
9	91.37%
1	90.32%
7	90.28%
12	90.05%
10	87.89%
8	86.95%
5	86.03%

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the units and members who sent condolences upon the passing of my dad, Jim Bennett. All of your thoughts, prayers, and cards meant a lot to me and my family during a difficult time. ~ Bonnie Dorniak

My dad is my "why." He proudly served his Country in the Communications Center of General Douglas MacArthur's Headquarters in Japan during the Korean War. I honor his service through my membership in the American Legion Auxiliary. Who do you honor with your membership?



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Sandy Mack
 Department Chaplain/Music Chairman
 Smack0555@gmail.com
 262-388-9816

Has your unit implemented the POW/MIA Empty Chair Program at all meetings? Have you read *America's White Table* by Margot Theis Raven? I highly recommend this book. It is sold on Amazon for \$14.99.

The White Table is set in many mess halls as a symbol for and remembrance to service members fallen, missing, or held captive in the line of duty. Solitary and solemn, it is the table where no one will ever sit.

In the book, as a special gift to her Uncle John, Katie and her sisters are asked to help set the white table for dinner. As their mother explains the significance of each item placed on the table, Katie comes to understand and appreciate the depth of sacrifice that her uncle and each member of the Armed Forces and their families may be called to give.

This is how the book starts:

It was just a little white table... but it felt as big as America when we helped Mama put each item on it and she told us why it was so important. "We use a Small Table, girls," she explained first, "to show one soldier's lonely battle against many. We cover it with a White Cloth to honor a soldier's pure heart when he answers his country's call to duty. We place a Lemon Slice and Grains of Salt on a plate to show a captive soldier's bitter fate and the tears of families waiting for loved ones to return," she continued. "We push an Empty Chair to the table for the missing soldiers who are not here..."

POW'S/MIA'S should never be forgotten.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, we lift up our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. Protect them with Your presence, give them unwavering courage, and bring them safely home to our waiting arms. Comfort their families, strengthen our resolve to never forget, and bring justice to all who served. Amen.

~ The American Legion National Headquarters



Sweepstakes winners are posted at amlegionauxwi.org under the "More" tab.

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

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

May 22 was officially National Poppy Day – but poppies may be distributed all year long! Units and posts that completed poppy distributions are reminded to submit their 20% poppy profit report to department headquarters as soon as possible. The remaining proceeds must be used for the welfare of veterans, active-duty military, and their families where a medical or financial need is evident. The report form is posted on the department website.

The 2026 Department Convention will be held July 17-18, 2026 at the Hilton Paper Valley in Appleton. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Auxiliary, visit with old friends, and meet new ones. Registration is \$30, payable to The American Legion. Registrations received after July 6 are \$35. Please visit the department website for complete details.

Due to issues with delayed postal service last year, **delegate forms will be emailed to all unit presidents** 30 days prior to convention (June 17, 2026) and should be completed and returned immediately. Please monitor your email inbox and spam/junk folder for this important information! If a unit does not receive its delegate form, please contact department headquarters ASAP.

The ALA National Convention is August 31 to September 2, 2026 in Louisville, Kentucky. Details from the national organization will be posted on the department website when they become available (usually mid-June). Members interested in attending should contact Department Secretary Bonnie Dorniak at deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org if they want a registration packet.

2026 Department Convention Highlights

(subject to change)

Hilton Paper Valley, Appleton July 17-18, 2026

Friday, July 17, 2026

8:30 am Opening Processional
 8:45 am-5:00 pm General Session with a break for lunch

Saturday, July 18, 2026

8:00 am-2:30 pm General Session with Elections at 9:00 am and a break for lunch
 3:00 pm Installation of 2026-2027 Department Officers and District Presidents
 4:30 pm Post-Convention DEC Meeting
 5:00 pm Church Services
 7:00 pm-11:00 pm All Legion Family members are invited to the Past Commanders Club Party with Dueling Pianos. Advance ticket purchase required – see registration form for details.

Sunday, July 19, 2026

8:00 am Joint Memorial Service
 9:00 am-11:00 am Orientation for 2026-2027 Department Officers, District Presidents and District Membership Chairmen

NOTES:

The PPP Annual Business Meeting will be held virtually on June 30. See page A1 for details. Bring a raffle basket! Raffles will be held from Thursday, July 16 to Saturday, July 18.

The American Legion has chartered a bus to national convention for \$300 round-trip. The bus leaves Department Headquarters in Portage on August 28 at 8:00 am and departs Louisville on September 3 at 10:00 am, arriving back to HQ around 7:00 pm. Reserve your spot before August 7. If the bus is not filled by

then, it will be cancelled.

Four ALA In The Know Conferences are scheduled each Saturday from September 12 through October 3. The reservation deadline is August 12. The reservation form was mailed to all units in April and is available on the department website under Programs > ALA In The Know.

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND (AEF)

Bonnie Dorniak
 Department Secretary
 deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org
 608-745-0124

Thank you to all the units that submitted an AEF year-end report. Units educated their members on the AEF and generously donated more than \$17,000 to help other ALA members in need.

AEF provides temporary emergency assistance to eligible ALA members who have endured a significant financial setback as a result of an act of nature or personal crisis. With the flooding that impacted Wisconsin in April, encourage members who need assistance to apply for a grant before it's too late. Applications must be submitted electronically through the national website within three months of the disaster and awards are limited to one grant per grantee in a 12-month period. One unit reported they helped two Wisconsin members apply for and receive grant funding after floods damaged their homes last fall. Help is available for those who need it!

Applicants must be current ALA members who have maintained membership for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years). AEF grants of up to \$3,000 provide emergency assistance to ALA members in areas devastated by a natural disaster. Applicants must have received damage to their primary residence and/or been displaced or evacuated from their residence and had out-of-pocket expenses for food, clothing, and shelter.

Funds requested through AEF for medical-related expenses, taxes, general loans, insurances, credit cards, cellular/TV services, animal care, car payments, or home and vehicle maintenance or repairs are **not** eligible for funding consideration.

There are many, many organizations asking for donations and it is important to support the AEF. As your unit makes plans for the upcoming year, please include fundraisers and donations to the AEF in your schedule. This is **direct** help from members to members in time of an emergency.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC)

Maggie Geiger
 NEC
 maggieg4ala@gmail.com
 262-377-0329

The National Executive Committee (NEC) oversees the organization's financial responsibilities, reviews the annual budget, and national policies. There is a strong focus on leadership development, member engagement, and communications growth. Work continues to equip departments and members with tools, resources, and training to help achieve success today and in the future.

Some tools and resources for member engagement include the ALA Academy, webinars, and the national website. On the website, you can learn more about our programs and access templates for letters, media releases, and more.

Zoom meetings have played a key role in maintaining fiscal responsibility. They have enabled successful meetings attended by many NEC members who share their thoughts. Monthly reports from National Executive Director Ben Hendricks are sent to keep us informed.

The national organization works tirelessly to develop ways to help our departments and units. Questions raised by our members are continually discussed to identify solutions that support them. Here are a few examples:

- Why do people join the ALA? What is their "why?"
- We keep some members engaged while others drift away. How can we improve?
- What is a better way to improve a first-year member's experience?
- How can we better equip units for success?

I had the pleasure of attending the Washington Conference in March, held in Washington, D.C. The American Legion Family visited senators and representatives to advocate for the Legion's legislative priorities. There were joint sessions in which we learned more about benefits, job opportunities, and other information to help veterans, service members, and their families.

I am grateful for the opportunity to represent the Department of Wisconsin and to help make decisions that keep our organization viable now and in the future.

AMERICANISM

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

We all practice Americanism every day and for most of us it is the usual way of life. This winter those of us who live in the northern communities had ample chances to help our veterans and other aging citizens as they plowed through several feet of snow and sanded driveways to prevent falls. A fall can mean a broken bone or sprain which can be bad for anyone but especially for the elderly. I am sure they will appreciate anything we can do to make their life a little easier. Part of our Americanism program includes being a responsible citizen and caring for others is just that. Winter weather can be nasty at times, but summer is right around the corner. These same people will have lawns to cut, weeds to be pulled and flowers looking good!

While you are taking care of all those chores, make sure their flag looks good as well! The Americanism program includes proper flag etiquette and awareness in communities. Did your unit order pamphlets on "Let's be Right on Flag Etiquette?" They are available on the Emblem Sales website for \$1.00 each.

Many units submitted Americanism reports. I received 310 reports. Many included pictures of their activities throughout the year. Lots of units have parades at this time of the year to celebrate the Memorial Day Holiday. Some had traveling Patriotic Art Fairs. I thought that was unique and a great idea!

Units are actively promoting Americanism through ALA Badger Girls State, the Americanism Essay Contest, Flag Day, displaying Americanism in schools, and assisting aging veterans in our communities. Units still find the time to participate and assist with The American Legion programs such as American Legion Baseball, American Legion Softball, Badger Boys State, the Oratorical Contest, Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy, and Junior Shooting Sports. And this year we will celebrate the 250th birthday of our country. Many plans for that party this summer!!

ALA Department of Wisconsin 2026 Scholarship Winners

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

H. S. & Angeline Lewis
 (1) \$1,000 award – Graduate Student
 No qualified applicant

H. S. & Angeline Lewis
 (5) \$1,000 awards

Eric Moser, Oconomowoc	Pewaukee #71-1
Kailee Frank, Luxemburg	Casco #319-9
Carmen Frese, Owen	Owen #123-7
Pierce Gerl, New Franken	Green Bay #11-9
Jack Wendler, Withee	Owen #123-7

Merit & Memorial
 (8) \$1,000 awards

Adalin Macauley
 Ryan Smiskey, Chippewa Falls Chippewa Falls #77-10

Eleanor Smith
 Anna Annoye, Luxemburg Luxemburg #262-9

Pearl Behrend
 Isaac Gunby, Mt Horeb Mt Horeb #113-3

Barbara Kranig
 Brianna Bray, Luxemburg Luxemburg #262-9

Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan
 James Lange, Shawano Clintonville #63-8

Diane Duscheck
 Aaliyah White, Beaver Dam Beaver Dam #146-2

Harriet Hass
 John Athorp, Howards Grove Sheboygan Falls #149-2

Merit Scholarship
 Delaney Smiskey, Chippewa Falls Chippewa Falls #77-10

Department Presidents
 (3) \$1,000 awards

Clare Yopp, Burlington	Burlington #79-1
Jayden Dalton, Omro	Omro #234-6
Samantha Baldauf, Windsor	Sun Prairie #333-3

Van Deuren Memorial
 (1) \$1,000 award

Kelsey Moore Wautoma #317-8

Past Presidents Parley
 (3) \$1,000 awards

Health Career
 Cora Healy-Dougherty, Highland Avoca #335-3

Nursing

Chloe Dybul, Fredonia	Fredonia #410-2
Josie Gueths, Leopolis	Caroline #456-8

Child Welfare
 (1) \$1,000 award
 No qualified applicant

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship
 – Wisconsin's Nominee
 Claire Emeyla, Forestville

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship
 – Wisconsin's Nominee
 La' Wanda Bass, Milwaukee

Spirit of Youth for Junior Members Scholarship
 – Wisconsin's Nominee
 Cadence Rose, Clintonville

Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship
 – Wisconsin's Nominee
 Kate Fechner, La Crosse

ALABGS SCHOLARSHIPS

Badger Girls State Scholarship
 (6) \$500 awards

Olivia Tierney, McFarland	McFarland #534-3
Abigail Albrightson, Whitefish Bay	Oconomowoc #91-1
Eden Wilson, Port Washington	Port Washington #82-2
Grace Poindexter, Muskego	Waukesha #8-1
Lydia VanArk, Owen	Lublin #547-11
Faith Derleth, Tomahawk	Tomahawk #93-11

Eileen Knox Memorial Scholarship
 (1) \$500 award
 Cadence Rose, Clintonville Clintonville #63-8

Harry & Shirley Kuehl Foundation Scholarship
 (1) \$500 award

Mara Dickson, Browntown Monroe #84-3

2026 Americanism Essay Winners

Essay Title: "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans who Fought for our Freedom."

(Winners by Class with Sponsors)

Class I – Grades 3 & 4

Lucas Mercer	Port Washington #92
Kate Chevremont	Appleton #38
Chenoa Songetary	Siren #132
Hadley Judas	Berlin #340
Coy Wayne Turner III	Union Grove #171

Class II – Grades 5 & 6

Everly Bending	Berlin #340
Coy Lomas	Wauzeka #458
Kiyia Krueger-Rook	Menomonee Falls #382
Lily Kurz	Chilton #125
Dhruv Narasimhan	Port Washington #92

Class III – Grades 7 & 8

Kasil Mueller	Lublin #547
Elsie Mallmann	Appleton #38
Rian Lueck	Bangor #40
Kelay Jakob	Loyal #175
Enoch Chi	Menomonee Falls #382

Class IV – Grades 9 & 10

Helena Hamers	Allenton #483
Francine Uwomahoro	Menomonee Falls #382

Class V – Grades 11 & 12

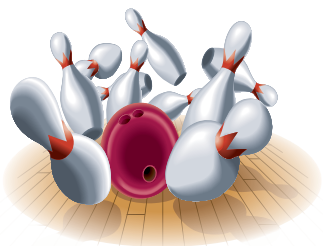
Donna Hollenbeck	Cambria #401
Ruby McCartney	New London #263
Victoria Gillett	Beaver Dam #146

Class VI

Traigh Bowlin	Menomonee Falls #382
Abigail Okon	Berlin #340
Israe Sanchez	Shiocton #512

2026 9-PIN TAP BOWLING TOURNAMENT RESULTS

(top 3 places in each category)



Team:

1st	(2687) Bonduel Gals, Unit 217 Bonduel
2nd	(2367) Betty's Foxy Bowlers, Unit 437 Mazomanie
3rd	(2243) Curts Girls, Unit 385 Verona

Doubles:

1st	(1283) Heather Gebauer/Toni Moegenburg, Unit 355 Grafton
2nd	(1272) Irene Klatt/Kathryn Machovec, Unit 13 Richland Center
3rd	(1265) Pollyanna Johns/Laura Thompson, Unit 187 Wisconsin Dells

Singles:

1st	(731) Laura Thompson, Unit 187 Wisconsin Dells
2nd	(685) Deb Wipperfurth, Unit 385 Verona
3rd	(652) Toni Moegenburg, Unit 355 Grafton

All Events:

1st	(2132) Laura Thompson, Unit 187 Wisconsin Dells
2nd	(1968) Debi Wipperfuth, Unit 385 Verona
3rd	(1948) Kathryn Leeman, Unit 217 Bonduel

UNIT 243: POPPY PRINCESS



ALA 243 Junior member Piper Koran recently welcomed home deserving veterans from Washington, DC on the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight. Her mother Angela served in Iraq in the Army and father Scosh is currently serving in the Coast Guard. Piper works at the unit's GI Breakfasts, participates in the Legion's Shooting Sports program, and supports various community projects.

District 1 – Year in Review



Crystal Shaw
1st District
President

First District embraced Department President Sue Hembrook's ideal of "Legion Family" and District President Crystal Shaw's two-year theme, "May Your Journey Always Lead You Home," by strengthening connections throughout the district and supporting one another in meaningful ways.

Units across the district grew closer to their Posts, Squadrons, and Riders, working together to recruit members, host events, and support fundraisers. Many units that experienced significant growth this year did so because they focused on the mission of the American Legion and Auxiliary while building relationships rather than simply focusing on numbers. Members formed stronger friendships through coffee meetups, camping weekends, hikes, and increased participation in each other's events and activities.

The district also continued to support leadership development by hosting its 3rd Annual End-of-Year Reports Workshop, created and led by District President Crystal Shaw. The workshop received excellent feedback and helped unit members and officers better understand the reporting process, resulting in more detailed impact reports. District leadership worked together as a team to assist, meet-up, and encourage all units during the process.

Two major district-wide events highlighted the spirit of the Legion Family this year. The First District American Legion POW/MIA March brought together our Auxiliary officers and members from across the Legion Family in a powerful silent march honoring those still unaccounted for. The district also hosted a bowling fundraiser for Badger Youth Camp, where members collaborated through planning meetings and teamwork to create a successful and enjoyable event for a meaningful cause.

Through friendship, teamwork, and service, First District truly demonstrated that when the Legion Family works together, every journey leads home.

District 4 – Year in Review



Pat Ehleiter
4th District
President

My first year as president has been eventful, productive, and a learning experience like no other. I got the chance to visit District 1's Spring Conference, the Four Chaplains Event, and my Unit 434 hosted the District 4 & 5 Joint Spring Conference in May. All of which were enjoyable and memorable.

This year our units participated in various memorable events and activities that centered around servicing our communities while honoring our veterans, military and their families. This year, our Poppy Princess Avery was selected as the state's Poppy Princess and was invited to attend the Honor Flight and welcome home our veterans.

District 4 raised over \$5,000 in poppy distributions for our veterans which is impressive – way to go! We volunteered about 800 hours and donated over \$2,000 to the ALA Badgers Girls State and other Legion Family youth activities. Unit members and members of the community attended flag disposal ceremonies and Memorial Day, Veterans Day honoring our Veteran of the Year, and 4th of July services along with the annual Bike Blessing.

Units honored our veterans by hosting Veterans' picnics and dinners. Some units crocheted and donated lap blankets and bags of necessities to our VA. We also participated in food drives, hosted craft fairs, spaghetti dinners, and pancake breakfasts throughout the district. Some members donated their time crocheting mittens that were given along with gifts donated by their Legion during the Breakfast with Santa. Auxiliary units and Legion posts held Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Trunk-or-Treat, both well attended family events.

It is events such as these that promote the idea of a cohesive Legion, SAL, Riders and Auxiliary Family. When we come together, we can accomplish amazing things that support and honor our veterans, active military, their families and our community.

District 2 – Year in Review



Kathy Olson
2nd District
President

Each of the County Councils in District 2 held spring and fall meetings providing units with a great way to showcase what they do to support our veterans.

Columbia County had a booth at the Columbia County Fair to let people know what we do and how to join. Money collected from the fair was donated to the Fisher House in Madison.

Dodge County received a grant which they used for donations to Legion Riders, Camp American Legion, Homeless Female Veterans, and Christmas Gift Shop.

Jefferson County units have been busy. At their spring County Council meeting, they approved a Facebook page so the units could share their upcoming events within the county and beyond.

Ozaukee County participated in the USA 250 Challenge by holding a food drive to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. All seven units within Ozaukee County also participated in a USO Baby Shower. In March, Ozaukee County also spearheaded the District 2 donation and put together 200 "goodie bags" for troops being deployed later that week.

Sheboygan County Council donated to Sons of the American Legion, Children Organ Transplant, Ya Ya's Group, County Veterans Service and Rocky Knoll. They also approved to hold a food collection project in honor of 250th Anniversary of the County.

Washington County units fundraised for various organizations, supported the Give 10 program for local schools and collected purses and personal products for female veterans.

At our spring conference, District 2 endorsed three candidates for 2026-2027 including: Maggie Geiger for National Central Division Vice President, Amy Luft for Department of Wisconsin President and Sandy Mack for Department Historian.

District 2 County Councils are a vital part of the organizational structure and help to ensure that communications are maintained throughout the units.

District 5 – Year in Review



Linda Bartell
5th District
President

It was another tough year for our district. We had two unit presidents pass away and no one wished to step up into that officer position. This made four units without Presidents out of six total units in Fifth District. But we had some positives this last year also:

Unit 1 continued to make tray favors for all holidays and a knitting group that made lap robes, afghans and baby afghans for Zablocki VA. They recruited four new members, of which three of those members utilized their schools. St. Agnes in Butler and Beautiful Savior in Milwaukee, to participate in Service to Veterans. For each holiday, they signed or made sixty cards for the veterans at the Union Grove facility. Beautiful Savior, which only has 15 students totally, had a fundraiser of hygiene items and donated \$650 of such to Zablocki VA. Very impressive! Our new Junior member helped with a poppy distribution. Birthday cards are sent to all members of the unit.

Unit 331 still continues to celebrate all military birthdays (Army, Navy, etc.) with a poppy distribution and cake at the Brat House in Shorewood.

Unit 406 is in flux as their Post is disbanding due to no leadership. The Auxiliary paid all the members' dues for 2026 out of their finances so they can determine the path that they will take moving forward. They also donated \$2,000 to the Homeless Women Veterans Grant Fund, Christmas Gift Shop, Fisher House and Camp American Legion.

Unit 479, with help from Department Membership Chairman Christina Petranovich, had a meeting and discussed the value of each member. Whether they were active or inactive, they could choose the programs they wished to work going forward. They went into the meeting thinking they needed to disband as their President had passed away. They all went home hopeful as to their unit's future.

I am looking forward to the rest of this year.

District 3 – Year in Review



Shelley Drager
3rd District
President

The 3rd District had a very busy and productive year in all areas. I am very proud of this amazing group of volunteers.

Units worked with their posts on membership, recruiting for each other. Membership tables were set up throughout the district – at county fairs, car shows, and all sorts of community events. Units were seen "branding" – wearing our attire to inspire. Our membership shows all our efforts with 16 units 100% or above – amazingly awesome again this year and still going strong right till the end, the Fighting 3rd Way!

We also worked together on fundraising the family way – from brat fries and pop-up water stands for honor flight to a huge fundraising hit, Burgers in the Park. Some units do this monthly, others do a yearly event. This has been an amazing fundraiser for many and what a great way for community interaction. This year, one of the units pushed the fundraising bar above any I've seen for such a small, dedicated group. A Cabin Fever Reliever fundraiser garnered over \$50,000 for Vets Roll – simply amazing! We may start out small, but we gain speed and strength to succeed. This makes me so proud to be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

This year has found us being encouraged to try new things and join other organizations in the community. Working together makes us all better.

We closed out with our Spring Conference and wonderful speaker Raquel Durden; I suggest others sign her up to speak. Amazing author. Along with that, the district came together to raise funds for President Sue's special project, Camp American Legion. Together with our basket/pie raffle, and 50/50 drawing, we will donate \$900 to help Camp American Legion with renovations. Thank you.

District 6 – Year in Review



Diane Steinert
6th District
President

By working the ALA programs, the units of District 6 continue to "Honor Our Country and Support Our Veterans."

The 2025 Department Convention was held in Green Bay, where several of our units received well-deserved recognition. Montello Unit 351 received the Heart of the ALA Award. Neenah Unit 33 earned a Certificate of Recognition for Americanism, a Certificate of Recognition for Children & Youth, a "Give 10 to Education" certificate, and the award for Most Outstanding Unit Poppy Program. St. Cloud Unit 478 was awarded a certificate for Legislative Advocacy in Education.

Char Kiesling received the Past Presidents Parley – Mentor of the Year award for her many years of dedicated service to the Department Junior Activities Program. Additionally, the 2024-2025 Junior Unit of the Year Award was presented to Unit 33, Neenah (Vicki Hanson, Jr. Activities Chair). Congratulations to all!

Neenah Unit 33 hosted our District Fall Conference with many units represented. A key component was a presentation from Deputy Director Lydia Wilz from the Winnebago County Veterans Service Office on "Pension/Surviving Spouse Pension." We also had a great turnout for our District Spring Conference, hosted by Montello Unit 351. Thanks to both units for putting everything together. Reports were given by District Chairmen, and county and unit representatives. It is always nice to hear what everyone has been doing during the year.

Our units were tireless in their service. From hosting parties for veterans and participating in Poppy Days to coordinating fundraisers, marching in parades, and sponsoring candidates for ALA Badger Girls State, your impact was felt everywhere. Whether through school programs or Veterans Day activities, our members serve as the pillars of their communities.

Our units have proven quite successful in retaining and recruiting members. As of this writing, eleven units and one county have already reached or exceeded 100% of their membership goals. Great job, everyone!

Thank you for the invitations to unit and county meetings, special events, and installations of officers. Your dedication to our mission is truly appreciated. I look forward to another incredible year of service as your District President.

District 7 – Year in Review



Jesse Elmhurst
7th District
President

District 7 continues to erupt with positive impact! The District 7 Auxiliary has been hard at work strengthening and growing our American Legion Family. One of our biggest focuses this year has been bringing our organizations together through joint district conferences with The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, and American Legion Riders. Working together as one family has created stronger connections, greater teamwork,

and larger opportunities to serve our veterans and communities.

One exciting joint effort currently underway is fundraising for the Freedom Honor Flight program, which is located within our district and is in need of continued financial support. Freedom Honor Flight provides veterans with the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials built in their honor, creating meaningful and unforgettable experiences for those who have served our nation. District 7 has set a big goal — raising enough funds as an American Legion Family to sponsor an entire Honor Flight plane.

In addition to these district-wide efforts, our individual units continue making a difference through many outstanding projects and programs. Activities throughout the district include Memorial Wreath Toss ceremonies, Poppy Day events, Feed My People projects, and numerous donations supporting the Tomah VA Medical Center. District 7 has also proudly contributed to Camp American Legion in honor of Department President Sue's special project.

Membership growth and celebrating America's upcoming 250th Birthday have also remained priorities throughout the District. As part of Department President Sue's theme, District 7 was assigned Hawaii Volcanoes National Park — and District 7 has truly been erupting with positive energy, dedication, and impact across our communities.

I am incredibly proud of all our members and everything being accomplished throughout District 7. Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication. Keep up the great work!

District 10 – Year in Review



Teresa Steinke
10th District
President

Ours is a volunteer organization, but here in the Tenth District, we accomplish some very mighty goals. As I read every impact report, I was amazed and impressed by the dedication shown by every member in our district!

We spent time and resources to improve the lives of our veterans, our active-duty military, and their families. Collectively, the Tenth District units gave more than 28,850 hours of their time, and over \$46,000 to assist approximately 4,000 veterans, active-duty military and their families. We encouraged 30 junior girls to explore our form of government by sending them on a one-week adventure called ALA Badger Girls State, investing more than \$15,000 and volunteering over 770 hours to make sure they have a great experience while they are there. We had poppy drives in which we distributed more than 18,200 poppies and collected donations that topped more than \$42,000. We spent \$16,000 helping nearly 1,000 children throughout our Tenth District. We dedicated over 21,600 hours and more than \$20,500 through our service in our communities. Our units know the importance of a higher education and the high cost of that education, so 31 scholarships were awarded locally by our units, totaling over \$12,000! Additionally, our dedicated volunteers drove more than 61,500 miles to do these things.

I am so proud of the efforts that our units, from the smallest to the largest, have given to carry out the mission and the vision of the American Legion Auxiliary. I think every member should be proud of everything that is done every day to advocate on behalf of our veterans and military, and to enhance the lives of those veterans, their families and our communities as we all carry out the mission of our amazing organization.

District 8 – Year in Review



Kay Grosskopf
8th District
President

In conjunction with District 8 Commander Penny Peeters, we hosted the 8th District Fall Conference at Grand Army Home at King. Mary Dulske, King volunteer coordinator, spoke to the group about the many and diversified volunteer opportunities at King. That was followed by a brainstorming session based on President Sue's theme for the year. After lunch, there was time to walk to see Brownie, the War Dog statue that is located outside of the Commandants house. The house was open for tours on the main floor only. This beautiful house is under renovation and repairs. Lastly, we joined with the Legion to hear Kelly Nelson, author of Brownie, the War Dog speak about writing the book and the research that went into it.

Our Spring Meeting was in Fremont and took a different format this year. The start time was moved up to 8:30 with the goal of completing by 12:00-12:30 pm. It was business only, no speakers. After the program chair reports and memorial service, units gave a two-minute report on one to three activities. Because of the change in format, a survey showed most were in favor of the business only, half day format. We will plan on seeing more members attend next year with this change. Units are active and working many programs in the ALA.

Unfortunately, Eighth District is in 11th place for membership. We are working to rejuvenate several units and improving that number. We have six units at or above 100%. I plan to visit many more units this coming year.

Eighth District is committed to our veterans and military. We donate time and drove almost 39,000 miles to accomplish our mission. We encourage all units to work together with their posts and squadrons to present us as the American Legion Family.

District 11 – Year in Review



Theresa Schindler
11th District
President

As we celebrate the 250th birthday of the USA, President Sue Hembrook asked each district to focus on one of our country's beautiful national parks while working the ALA mission with her theme, **"Honor our Country – Support our Veterans."** Eleventh District chose the Redwood National Park. "Hiking" among the giant redwood trees inspired members to reach out and up in service to our veterans and military, and to honor our great nation.

District Eleven held on to second place in membership consistently throughout the year. 451 Boulder Junction, 532 Fifield, 362 Kennan, 464 Land O'Lakes, 547 Lublin, 424 Mercer, 25 Odanah, 182 Park Falls, and 274 Rib Lake went over the top of the tall redwood trees with 100% membership or higher. Unit 464 Land O Lakes led the way by achieving 188% membership!

Park Falls Unit 182 hosted the District Fall Conference. Second VP Betty Stone delivered an inspiring message on behalf of President Sue. The district donated funds to Camp American Legion, the Homeless Female Veterans fund, ALA Badger Girls State, and the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Reports were delivered with encouragement to use the department website program links, especially for annual reports. Unit leaders reported on events and activities in their respective communities. Awards and games were enjoyed throughout the conference.

Spring Conference was hosted by Three Lakes Unit 431. Elections were held for 2026-2028 district officers. Director Corey Doehrmann of the American Legion Riders spoke about the 'Family First-26' Cruise for a Cause. A donation was made toward this worthy Riders event. President Sue Hembrook's enthusiasm led to another generous donation for Camp American Legion to **"Support our Veterans."** Linda Tryczak spoke about the Community Service program and gifted everyone with a booklet of our nation's founding documents as we **"Honor our Country."** The day was sprinkled with good food, raffles, friendships, awards, games, and an American Legion Family memorial service for our deceased members.

This district continues the ALA mission as poppies are being distributed and warmer temperatures take us outside to "Honor our Country and Support our Veterans." Thank you for the privilege of serving as Eleventh District President. Let's meet at the Department Convention in July and celebrate America's 250th birthday together.

District 9 – Year in Review



Sue Keyzers
9th District
President

As I finish up my tenure as President of the Noble Ninth District, I would like to thank the units for their hard work and willingness to go the extra step for veterans and their families and their communities. This year we had both a Fall and Spring conference. The Spring Conference was a joint conference between the Legion and the Auxiliary. It worked out very well as The Woods in Green Bay was big enough for both organizations to have a room to themselves plus space to eat together.

A good time was had by all.

Members started out the year distributing over 15,750 poppies and raised over \$30,000 to help support veterans and their families. They donated funds to VA hospitals, King, Camp American Legion and many more general funds. Several members even volunteered at Camp American Legion for a week and had a great time.

Our members marched in parades from Athelstane/Silver Cliff to Washington Island. They worked with other organizations on fundraisers. They worked at fish boils, county fairs, golf outings and many other events. With the funds they raised, they sponsored about 30 girls to ALABGS and collected school supplies to help students have a good start to the school year. They worked in school closets to provide clothing for students and provided treats for teachers and staff during Teacher's Appreciation Week.

This year, President Sue named each district with a park name.

9th District is

Glacier National Park. Like the park, our district has weathered its up and downs. One of our best successes is Unit 94 in Crandon.

They have more than doubled their membership and helped the Senior Lunch program in their area. Every Tuesday from January through March they made and served lunch. They served over 325 meals and have been true to our mission.



District 12 – Year in Review



Barb McDaniel
12th District
President

The 12th District really takes to heart the spirit of Service, not Self. We may be small units in numbers, but big in our activities. The evidence of our reports from the fourteen units reporting show impressive figures of support for our veterans and military, families and Children & Youth.

Poppies are again this year's favorite activity. Several units also sponsored breakfasts, lunches, raffles – in fact, if an activity could help our veterans and military families, a unit was participating. Two units stand out with their reports of activities and participation. Unit 218 from Hayward participated in the Veterans History Project by interviewing veterans Gary Connor, Jeff Clapero and Barry Gobler for the Library of Congress. Unit 487 from Cable holds an annual community garage sale for three consecutive weekends. They also do Wreaths Across America for all veterans in all the local cemeteries.

Children & Youth programs are well served by units reporting 40 ALA Badger Girls State and 673 youth served with over \$8,000 spent. Communities benefited by the various units sponsoring Easter egg hunts, summer picnics, assisting posts with military honors at flag presentations and cemeteries, 4th of July parades, public events such as Lumberjack World Championships, and town celebrations.

Membership is low in all units. Fortunately, the district didn't lose any units and re-chartered Unit 221 in Osceola, returning with a membership of 150%. Welcome aboard! The district also has eight units at 100% or more, six units at 90% or more, and three units at 80% or more. Bravo Zulu, District 12.



Nathan Bond
Department
Commander

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

As my year as Department Commander comes to a close, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the honor of serving you and our great organization.

Over the past year, I have witnessed the absolute best of our Legion Family: Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders working together to support our fellow veterans, strengthen our communities, and uphold the values to which we all swore allegiance. From Post meetings and District Conferences to honor guards, charity rides, youth programs, and veteran outreach, your dedication has been the driving force behind every success we have shared.

Thank you to our Post, County, and District officers whose leadership at the local level is the backbone of our mission. Thank you to

our Legion Family members who quietly give their time, talent, and heart—often without recognition, but never without impact. And thank you to my fellow Department officers and staff for your guidance, patience, and teamwork throughout this journey.

We have faced challenges together and celebrated achievements together, always with a shared purpose: to serve veterans, their families, and our communities, our state, and our nation. I am proud of what we have accomplished and confident that the Wisconsin American Legion Family will continue to grow, adapt, and lead with integrity and compassion as our Legacy goes FORWARD.

It has been an immense privilege to serve as your Commander. I will carry the lessons, friendships, and memories of this year with me always.

For God and Country!



Sue Hembrook
Department
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is so unbelievable that this presidency year has almost come to a close. Through your support a lot was accomplished. The Department of Wisconsin is amazing and the support given to the new adventure of on-line reporting was admirable. Hopefully, next year more units will use this process with the help of those who used it this year. Mentoring is the key with any new idea, so please mentor the next person in line. Sharing ideas and helping one another is the sure proof way of accomplishing mountains.

Commander Nathan Bond, Commander Chris Dannenmann, Director Corey Doehrmann, and I truly worked together to support our Department. The Camp American Legion Project was embraced by the entire family. The Riders led the way with their Fall Ride and set the tone. A large storage shed to protect a lot of the equipment is soon to be a reality due to your generosity. Camp is 101 years old this spring and we need to protect its legacy. It is our own gem, so please keep up the donations.

Funding our programs is an essential need. Our programs must be our main focus! While projects outside our Legion Family are extremely important, we must all remember that our projects are equally as vital and need our support. If we do not support what we have in place, they may not be around as our membership continues to decline.

There are many veterans and their families who are potential members. We must do our best to demonstrate how vital we are to our communities, veterans and active-duty military, and their families. Get out in your communities and be branded! It is amazing what a conversation starter your branded clothing can stir up. Let us each make a commitment to reach out to someone to let them know how we matter and ask them if they too are eligible to join.

Honor our Country, Support our Veterans! This was the theme this year as our country celebrates 250 years on July 4th and the ideals that were fought for by our veterans throughout the years. Let us all stand proud that we are fulfilling the promise of this theme. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for embracing this ideal.



Christopher Dannenmann
SAL Detachment
Commander

SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

“Well done is better than well said.”

– Benjamin Franklin

The Detachment of Wisconsin has done the hard work these past 10 months and done it well. Let's take pride in our dedication and contribution. With the state convention just months away, please make sure your CSR's are sent in to recognize what your Squadron has accomplished in support of the American Legion Family.

Our ALF Dog program is pressing forward into the summer months with renewed enthusiasm. Alf will be taking to the road to join the Cruise For A Cause. He'll do his part by meeting new friends around our great state. He is even going to Louisville for the National Convention. But...this dog is hungry for donations needed to continue the work of this vital program and the difference it makes in the lives of the loved ones of those deployed.

Flag Day is right around the corner. There's no better time to go out and support your community and show them what you do as Sons of The American Legion. Let them know who you are as you hand them the Flag Code of the United States of America and ask them if they are eligible to join The American Legion Family. This is a great opportunity to boost membership.

What are you doing July 17-19 this year? Hopefully, attending the convention at the Hilton Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. We'd love to see you there. Come and learn what your Detachment is doing, what we have planned for the near future and elect your new Officers. Engage yourselves in the leadership learning, fun and camaraderie that is convention.

As we stand ready to welcome so many more New Squadrons in the coming months, we all have much more to do to keep our SONS strong and strengthen the four pillars of The American Legion. Thank you for being a part of it all.

Where there is a need, there is a SON.



Corey Doehrmann
State Director
American Legion
Riders Association

LEGION RIDERS DIRECTOR

Who else is ready for the warmer temperatures. We've had a few teases but I'm ready for steady warm riding weather!

I had the opportunity recently to attend some of the Department Spring meetings in Portage. The chance to hear what each of the committees are working on to make the lives of our fellow veterans and the communities we live in is great.

One of the meetings I was able to sit in on was the Finance Committee. Many thanks to all the work this committee and the Foundation Board have done to make sense of what they started with and put our organization in a much better position. As a recovering bean counter (former Accountant) I know firsthand the level of dedication that is required to understand things when you are picking up the pieces. I was very pleased to hear that every packet at this year's Department Convention will include a finance report so that members can also understand the position.

Our organization needs your help! We are currently in a budget shortfall, and we all need to step up and help. There are many ways to do so. You or your post could support one of the many programs



directly by sending in a donation and notating what you want it designated toward. One option that was discussed is the Sponsor a Veteran at Camp American Legion for \$500 (see QR code attached). This is a great way to contribute directly to the work of Camp and enable a veteran to experience the healing work that they provide. Your Wisconsin Legion Riders are leading the way by voting at our meeting on May 9 to sponsor 3 veterans.

The Wisconsin Legion Riders – Cruise for a Cause, 'Family First – 26' will be happening June 26-28. Follow our website (<http://www.alrawis.org/C4C/index.html>) and Facebook page (American Legion Riders Wisconsin) for all the updates. We would love to see you at one of our stops or as we travel through your community. Again, this year we'll be using Spotwalla so you can follow our progress in real time. It updates every 5 minutes while we are traveling.

If you have any questions about the Wisconsin Legion Riders don't hesitate to contact me: Corey Doehrmann/State Director, cell 262-305-0305 or email at alrawi.director@gmail.com. Our next meeting/event after the publication of this will be at 12 p.m. on July 25 at Anchor Bay Bar & Grill in Wisconsin Rapids.

Veterans Crisis Line  

DIAL 988
then **PRESS 1**



County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin

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

Your local Veteran Advocates, serving you since 1935

