CONVENTION SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2009
Coordinating Committee
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Board Room A
Foundation Meeting
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Board Room B

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2009
Americanism Committee
7:30 AM - 9:30 AM Directors 1
Convention & Activities Commission
7:30 AM - 9:30 AM Directors 5
Fundraising Committee
7:30 AM - 9:30 AM New Orleans South
Legislative Committee
7:30 AM - 9:30 AM Directors 8
Religious Emphasis Committee
7:30 AM - 9:30 AM Directors 11
Badger Legionnaire Committee
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Directors 7
Hospital Committee
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Directors 2
Membership Committee
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Directors 1
Public Relations
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Directors 6
National/Homeland Security Committee
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM New Orleans South
POW/MIA Committee
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Directors 3
Executive-Auxiliary Joint Luncheon
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM Mardi Gras
Children & Youth Committee
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM Directors 1
Policy Committee
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM Directors 8
Public Relations
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM Directors 6
VA&R Committee
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM New Orleans South
Finance Committee
3:30 PM - 5:30 PM Directors 5
District Commanders Briefing
5:30 PM - 6:00 PM Creole
National Commanders Reception
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Mardi Gras
Welcome Reception
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Outside/Grand Ball

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2009
District Caucus Meeting
7:00 AM - 8:30 AM See Caucus Sheet
Convention Sessions
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Grand Ball Room
SAL Convention Sessions
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Creole
Backwards Club Meeting
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Directors 11
Past SAA Club Meeting
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Directors 12
WALPA Business Meeting
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Directors 4
Elections Clerk Meeting
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Lafayette Room
Convention Committee Meetings
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM TBD
Department Executive Committee
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM New Orleans
GNUTS Social
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Mardi Gras

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2009
District Caucuses
7:00 AM - 8:30 AM See Caucus Sheet
Legion Convention Elections
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM Lafayette Room
Legion Convention Sessions
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Grand Ball Room
SAL Convention Session
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Creole
Chaplains Luncheon
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM Restaurant
Past Dept. Commanders Luncheon
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM Directors 11
Past Dept. Commanders-Wives Luncheon
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM The Deck
WHC Meeting
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Directors 5
Run-Off Election if necessary
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Lafayette Room
2010 National Convention Meeting
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Directors 8
New GI Bill
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Grand Ball Room
Catholic Services
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Directors 6
Protestant Services
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Directors 7
Past Commanders Club Party
7:30 PM - 10:00 PM New Orleans Room

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2009
Memorial Service
9:00 AM Grand Ball Room
Convention Sessions & Installation Ceremonies
9:30 AM Grand Ball Room
SAL Convention Session
9:00 AM Creole
Post Convention Executive Committee Meeting
9:00 AM Grand Ball Room
Department Officers Training
9:00 AM Grand Ball Room

2009 Convention Sweepstakes
ARE YOU IN?
Grand Prize $10,000
Second Prize $2,000
Third Prize $1,000
Fourth-Eighth Prize $500
Please return your tickets no later than July 20, 2009 to be eligible.
Winners will be drawn on July 26th at the Department Convention in Milwaukee.
If you have questions or would like to request additional tickets, contact Jessika at
(608) 745-1090 or Jessika@wilegion.org.
You need not be present to win. No purchase necessary.

May 18, 2009/Vol. 86, No. 5

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

THE AMERICAN LEGION
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
Wisconsin Department Convention - July 22-26, 2009
Wyndham Milwaukee Airport Hotel, Milwaukee, WI

Registration Form
All attendees to the 2009 Department Convention must pre-register by remitting this registration form and $25.00 per person to the Department Headquarters by July 15, 2009. If your Registration fee is not received by July 15, 2009, you will be required to pay a $30.00 registration fee at Convention.

Please send the Convention pre-registration form and $25.00 fee to:
The Wisconsin American Legion
Attn: Administrative Manager
P.O. Box 888
Portage, WI 53901

One person per form, please print legibly.

Please indicate District & Organization information:
District:_____
Legion Post #:_____
Auxiliary Unit #:_____
S.A.L. Sqd#:_____
Name:_____
Phone #:_____
Membership ID number:_____
Address:_____
City:_____
Zip:_____
Deadline Date for Registration: July 15, 2009

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“Aim High With Legion Pride.”

May God bless you and may God bless the American Legion.

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**DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**

**The Extra Degree**

James Range
Commander

Our department adjutant, Terry Trumman, has been busy and is moving back to Eau Claire, Wisconsin. I would like to wish both Terry and Jan good luck in all their future endeavors. In May, we held our budget meetings, to set up the budget for 2009-2010. As with most difficult things, there is good news and bad news. The good news is that we were able to maintain all of our great programs for the support of our veterans, and communities and our children and youth programs. We were able to add additional support for our service office in memorandum. We are seeing an increased workload with all our new veterans coming back from the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. The bad part is that because of the decrease in our investment income, we need over 325 members per district and this is certainly within our grasp. All we need is just a little more enthusiasm for our membership teams to reach our goals. There are some other veteran groups out there that say I only want veterans from my own era. If you run across one of these men or women, just remind them it is moving back to Wisconsin. The American Legion takes care of veterans from all the eras. By working together we have the impact that we need to have in order to support all veterans - past, present and future.

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**DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER**

**Memorial Day**

Thomas Ludka
Service Officer

Recently, there arose a situation involving a merchant ship on the high seas off the coast of Somalia. At risk at one time were the crew members of the ship. The actions of the crew stabilized the incident and the crew managed to regain control of the ship, although the captain was taken hostage by the outlaws.

There followed then a period of concern for his welfare. Eventually, the released captain was attainted through the efforts of the US Navy. All of this took time illustrating our need for serious planning and patience. Patience is one of God’s virtues. He seems to test us at times such as this. However, with his love and grace, we have endured. As we practice the outlaws, just as seasons come and go, so does life. We are the beneficiaries of this freedom we enjoy.

Annual Reports

Remember Squadron Consolidated Annual Reports are due by June 1. These forms were sent to the Squadron Adjutants and are used to report our activities to the Congress. We also use data collected to reward your Squadron for their outstanding achievement in the community, state, and nation.

**MORE MEMBERSHIP**

As of April 1, 2009, we were first place in the Central Region and 4th place in the nation, with all Squadrions reporting membership. Let’s welcome our newest Squadron 24 Lake Geneva. We need to continue and work on getting your membership up to 100%. Please send your 2009 Sons of the American Legion membership into Department Headquarters.

**AMERICAN LEGION CONFERENCES**

As Department Officers, we have the opportunity to attend the American Legion Spring Conference in your district. Let’s get out and promote The Sons of the American Legion.

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**SAL DETACHMENT**

Greetings from the Sons of the American Legion

Kirk Hove
Detachment Commander

Local Memorial Day Celebrations

Now that spring weather is here, Memorial Day celebrations will be in our local communities. This gives us a great opportunity to participate as a Sons of the American Legion Squadron, so let’s get out and promote! As we celebrate Memorial Day, let’s remember to honor and pay tribute to our veterans and the freedom we enjoy.

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Post 375 Supports Honor Flight

For Skip Jacobs, Commander of Mukwonago’s American Legion Post 375, and Finance Officer Rod Formella, revolve was $3,000.00 on Saturday morning, the 25th of April. 2009. Their mission was to arrive at General Mitchell Field and rendezvous with 100 Stars and arrive at General Mitchell Field April 2009. Their mission was to

Tours Available During State Convention

MILWAUKEE OVERVIEW

Friday, July 24, 4-9pm

This tour will give you a great overview of Milwaukee learning about the city’s history, the architecture, the museums, and the culture. We’ll see a great mix of new and old from the brewing history and German immigration of the late 1800’s to the new spectacular developments along the lakefront and renovation of the neighborhoods. We’ll meander through downtown Milwaukee, stopping on Old World Third Street to visit some of the shops including Wisconsin Cheese Mart, The Spice House and Ustinger’s Sausage. We’ll make a stop at the city’s new icon, the Milwaukee Art Museum, to see the magnificent Brise Soleil (moveable sunscreen with a wing-span equal to that of a 747) open. Some of the remarks we will make include:

- Chemical - Biological - and Camp, Life Extension, Personal Loan Programs, Transition Res.
- Veterans Benefits: The Mission: Welcome Home program is designed to help returning veterans and their families. We have prepared information to help everyday life by ensuring that they have knowledge and access to all of the federal and state benefits they are eligible for.

For more information on WDV A news, state programs, services and resources, as well as to read updates on issues and hot topics, visit www.wis- veterans.org.

TOUR REGISTRATION FORM – MILWAUKEE

** Please send Registration Form by in July 1, 2009 **

Names of Tour Registrants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City, State, Zip</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Doe</td>
<td>123 Main St, Milwaukee, WI 53203</td>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>(414) 555-1212</td>
<td><a href="mailto:john.doe@email.com">john.doe@email.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Smith</td>
<td>456 Elm St, Milwaukee, WI 53204</td>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>(414) 555-1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jane.smith@email.com">jane.smith@email.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact Phone Number:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Johnson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jessica@email.com">jessica@email.com</a></td>
<td>(414) 555-1212</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fun with the Family:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tom &amp; Sally</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tomsally@email.com">tomsally@email.com</a></td>
<td>(414) 555-1234</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Grand Total

Great References!

Checks payable to: MC VISA AMEX (Circle One) $ |

Expiration Date |

Name on Card |

Mail from: KBC Tour Company | 

8151 W. Woodland Ave., West Allis, WI 53213 | CALL: 1-414-581-4989 |

www.KBCTour.com | 800-764-9499 |
**SAL CANDIDATES FOR DETACHMENT OFFICE**

### Michael Pook
**Candidate for Detachment Commander**

Mike Pook has served Squadron 449 Brookfield in several leadership positions and is currently the Commander. His leadership and service to the Post also includes being a member of the Scholarship Selection Committee and is a Boy Scout leader in Troop 449. Pook’s leadership experience includes numerous positions within the scouting organization and currently he is a Cub Master and Merit Badge Counselor.

Mike Pook joined the Sons ten years ago, after the death of his father, who was a Korean War veteran, as a way to honor his father and all veterans. In the service to life through the values shared by Scouting and The American Legion, Mike Pook has received endorsements from District 1, and 2 of The American Legion Post 449, and Detachment Districts 1, 4 and 5. Pook is employed by Milwaukee County and lives with his family in Wauwatosa. Both his sons are S.A.L. members and his wife, Charity and daughter are Auxiliary members.

**The American Legion**

The American Legion, Pook brings a fresh and enthusiastic approach to leadership. He has been teaching boys and adults about Americanism, Patriotism and Service to one’s county all his team tournament. With Appleton journey to Appleton Legion Post 38 to compete in the eight-team tournament. With Appleton getting the automatic entry as hosts, Wisconsin will have two teams chasing the dream of playing in the American Legion World Series in Fargo, North Dakota.

On August 16, the Milwaukee Brewers play host to the Houston Astros prior to the Legion Baseball All Star Game. Tickets for the games may be purchased from any Legion Post, or by contacting State Headquarters. Wisconsin remains the only state to have its All Star event played at a Major League ballpark. Baseball is a great American tradition. Hope to see you at a Legion Baseball game this summer.

### Kelly Powers
**Candidate for Detachment Commander**

My name is Kelly Powers. I am running for the S.A.L. Detachment Commander for 2004-2006, and I was recently appointed Vice Commander to finish the 2008-2009 term. I was running for Commander in 2006 when health and education issues made it impossible for me to put forth the effort that the S.A.L. deserved, so I asked Commander Hove to run in my place. I intend to continue the great works that Commander Hove has started and my commander’s project will be to increase the awareness of the veteran’s homeess issue. There are an estimated 270,000 homeless veterans in the United States, and that number is expected to triple in the next five years.

There will also be the need to work hand in hand with the Legion Family. I will make myself available to as many Legion Family functions as possible. This is the year that we prepare for the 2010 National Convention in Milwaukee. The commander will need to put a great deal of effort into getting that set up, and with my experience I am ready and willing to put in that kind of effort.

### Russell B. Severson
**Candidate for Detachment Vice Commander**

Russell B. Severson, Detachment Historian, has announced his candidacy for the office of Vice Commander of the S.A.L. Squadron of Wisconsin. Russ is a member of Mickelson-Martin Squadron 313 in Black Earth. Russ is eligible for membership in the Sons of the American Legion through his father, Burnett, a WWII Air Force Veteran and a 50 plus year member of Post 313. Russ is currently the commander of Squadron 313, as well as serving as the Detachment Historian. Russ is also the Deputy Representative of the S.A.L. to the William S. Middle-ton Veteran’s Memorial Hospital in Madison. Russ is married to Candy, and he has a daughter, Ka-tie, who is a long-time member of Auxiliary Unit 313. Russ is employed by the Wisconsin Heights School District as the High School Head Custodian. I want to thank everyone in advance for your support. I will do all that I can for the S.A.L. and to promote new membership and active participation in all areas of service and support to veterans in Wisconsin.

### ‘The Boys of Summer’ are Returning as Legion Baseball Season Set to Open

*By Bob Seide, W.A.L.B.A. Public Relations Director*

Grass is turning green, birds are once again singing, and the echoes of “Play Ball” are resonating from ball diamonds throughout the state. Another year of American Legion Baseball is about to open. The Wisconsin American Legion Baseball Association is proud to present its 84th season of Legion Baseball in the Badger state, which gets underway in early June.

The defending state champions include: De Pere in Class AAA, Marathon in Class AA, Clintonville in Class A, Darien in 17-Under Junior Legion, and the Burlington Diablos in 16-Under Junior Legion. This season will be a little more special as Wisconsin plays host to the Great Lakes National Regional in early August. Teams from Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin will journey to Appleton Legion Post 38 to compete in the eight-team tournament. With Appleton getting the automatic entry as hosts, Wisconsin will have two teams chasing the dream of playing in the American Legion World Series in Fargo, North Dakota.

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### American Legion Day Rodeo

In honor of their service to our country, the Mid-Western Rodeo in Manawa, Wisconsin would like to invite all American Legion members to American Legion Day - Sunday, July 5 at the 2:00 p.m. rodeo performance. Any Legion member wearing an American Legion pin, hat, shirt, or other Legion gear will get free admission to the reserved seating area. For more information on the Mid-Western Rodeo call 1-800-74RODEO or visit www.manawarodeo.org

### Post 21 Easter Party

Family Readiness Group Kenosha, Kenosha Post 21 and SAL Squadron 21 held an Easter party and egg hunt for the families. There were 257 unit in Kenosha. About 80 kids from the deployed families came and had a good time along with members from the Kenosha Post 21 Family.

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*Did you know you can read the Badger Legionnaire online at www.wilegion.org?*

By opting out of receiving a print edition of the newspaper, you can save the Department money and get the information sooner! The online edition of the Badger Legionnaire is usually available at least one week before the paper arrives in your mailbox. Provide us with your e-mail address and we will notify you each month when the latest edition is available on our site.

Do you no longer wish to receive the print edition of the Badger Legionnaire?

**Name:**

**Member ID:**

**E-mail Address:**

Please note: If there is an Auxiliary or S.A.L. member in your household, they must also opt out of the print version or it will continue to be mailed to your home.

Mail this form back to: Wisconsin American Legion, PO Box 388, Portage, WI 53901 or you can e-mail the information to jessika@wilegion.org
Wisconsin’s Future Leaders Gathering in June

By Nathan Grunewald

The Wisconsin American Legion’s Badger Boys State program will open its 68th session on June 13 with a July 13 graduation at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The annual week-long program brings together hundreds of high school seniors from throughout Wisconsin to create a 51st state known as Badger Boys State.

The program is designed to educate youth in the duties, privileges, rights, and responsibilities of American citizenship. It was developed on the fundamental principle that youth learn best by actively participating in the process. As much as possible, the mechanics of government in Badger Boys State are patterned after the established agencies of city, county and state government.

Badger Boys State participants, known as Citizens, are selected based on their qualifications as good students, strong leadership skills, and rank in the top third of their class. Previous Badger Boys State graduates are prominent elected officials – in tribute to Wisconsin Korean War veterans.

Major reconstruction of the causeway (island of honor) connecting the north shoreline of Wozzella Pines Municipal Park in the Village of Plover and the island upon which the Wisconsin Korean War Veterans Memorial is situated – along with reinforcement of the island shoreline, was completed in early November of $165,000. Then the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Village of Plover and the Worzella Pines Municipal Park District will open its 68th session on June 13, 2009 at Ripon College. The program is designed to educate youth in the duties, privileges, rights, and responsibilities of American citizenship. It was developed on the fundamental principle that youth learn best by actively participating in the process. As much as possible, the mechanics of government in Badger Boys State are patterned after the established agencies of city, county and state government.

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It Pays to Check Hospital Bills!

Fromkeystonemistakes to fraud, billing errors can cost patients thousands of dollars with each hospital stay. In the
inflated bills not only cost patients money but also harm credit records and count against insurance
policies’ lifetime spending caps. Consumer advocates recommend you carefully examine
your hospital bill. First, verify basic information, such as your name, address, and insurance company. Confirm the dates of
service - as a rule, healthcare policies don’t allow hospitals to charge for your discharge day.

Look for duplicate or incorrect orders for medication, lab work, tests or room fees. For example, if you are charged for several
lab tests or room fees on one day, the charges could be billing errors because generally these charges are bundled at a lower rate. It is also not
unusual for hospitals to charge for procedures that doctors cancelled. Typos and incorrect dates can drastically change the
amount you owe.

If you review your bill, you may also spot more spurious practices, such as fraud or upcharging (charges for more expensive
procedures). Report any questionable charges immediately.

If you find any billing error, contact the hospital and your insurer. You can also contact the consumer protection office of your state
attorney general. Be aware that hospitals routinely turn over unpaid bills to collection agencies. If there is an error, your credit history
may also need correction.

Costs for hospital stays continue to rise, and Medicare won’t cover all costs of your hospital bills. For example, in 2007, for
every spell of illness in the hospital, you have to pay the first $992.00 in hospital bills. Stay longer than 60 days and they’ll ding you again,
starting with a deductible of $2,480 every day. Go past 90 days, the deductible doubles to $4,960 every day.

This might also be a good time to review your benefits for hospital stays. Through the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Program,
you qualify for outstanding protection that pays cash for each day you’re hospitalized. These benefits are paid in addition to your
insurance.

For additional information, call the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Program
at 1-800-235-6943.
POW/MIA Profiles

The State POW/MIA Committee presents this month’s profile for your reflection.


This is my Battle Flag from Viet Nam, 1968-1969 and early 1970. Ed Teletzke and I were in the Mobile Riverine Force, Task Force 117-River Division 91 and 92. We took the 9th Infantry Division into the Mekong Delta where no other type of transportation would work. The small boats we used were nicknamed by the Army and Marine corps as “The Floating Coffins.” This is where I flew with honor and pride. The old lady may be a little worn but she still can hold her head up proud.

This flag was given to a young warrior to take to the war in Iraq. Master Sergeant Todd Phillips of the 1st Infantry Division is that warrior. I made it home with what you could call a “few” battle scars; so I told him he had to bring the flag back to me! Kind of like “keep your eyes peeled and your head down.” I hope it works.

Commander Jim Reigel meets with State Senator Jim Sullivan (D-Wauwatosa) while Department Legislative Committee Chairman Ken Brown listens.

Flag Returns After 40 Years

Veterans Day at the Capital Held

As originally reported in the March 9th edition of the Badger Legionnaire, this year’s annual veterans “storming” of the Capital for veterans’ rights and benefits took place in March on the left side of the home page.

The three main points we visited in our legislative body about involved:
• Funding the Wisconsin Veterans Home from the General Purpose Revenue (GPR).
• Reversing the proposed 1% transfer of veterans’ funds to the General Fund to help balance the state budget.
• And, Exempting the Wisconsin Veterans Home from the Bed Tax increase.

For more information about the purposed budget as well as pending state legislation affecting veterans, go to the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (dva.state.wi.us) website and click on the legislation link on the left side of the home page.

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The Wisconsin American Legion Baseball Association
Milwaukee Brewers vs. Houston Astros
Miller Park
Sunday, August 16, 2009
All-Star Game following the Brewers Game

Game Ticket Order Form

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Return tickets to:
Name: _____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City & Zip: _________________________________________
Telephone: _________________________________

Monday, August 16, 2009 at 7:05 PM

Mail to: The Wisconsin American Legion Baseball Association
P.O. Box 38
Portage, WI 53901-0388

All Tickets will be mailed to you unless you give special instructions for pick-up at state headquarters. Any questions, call Jill at 608-745-1090.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL