The Wisconsin American Legion – By the Numbers...

Slightly less than 70% of the local American Legion posts in Wisconsin submitted reports to Department Headquarters that quantify the total support they provide to veterans, their families, and their communities here in the Badger State. Year in and year out, local American Legion posts make a lasting difference in the lives of millions of Americans across the country.

The primary means of reporting activities to headquarters is the Consolidated Post Report. Posts are encouraged to submit their Consolidated Post Reports online at MyLegion.org. Paper forms are also distributed to posts for completion. Totalled together, they tell our story.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2011 COMBINED CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS

- **119,431 Hours** of Community Service
- **$270,521** Cash and In Kind DONATIONS to Americanism and Children & Youth Programs
- **$85,304** DISBURSED TO VETERANS & their Families for Emergency Needs
- **239** Baseball Teams Sponsored at a cost of **$355,293**
- **$62,603** Raised by Local Posts for VA & WDVA Facilities
- **42,869** volunteer hours by **932** registered volunteers

INVESTED IN

- **$183,165** Community Service Projects
- **6,604** PINTS of BLOOD donated by **2,990** donors
- **5,345** Cases handled by Post & Department Service Officers
- **$210,120** Given In College Scholarships
- **$74,715** Invested in Scouting Activities

1,420 Veterans placed in JOBS with the assistance from The Wisconsin American Legion

4,152 Funeral Honors provided by Post Honor Guards for Veterans & Military Personnel

Raised For The Legacy Scholarship FUND

- **$85,304** DONATIONS
- **$231,545** Invested IN 865 Young Men at Badger Boys State

OVER 65,000 War-time Veterans DISBURSE TO VETERANS FUND

42,869 volunteer hours by 932 registered volunteers

Message from the Commander

I hope you enjoy this special edition highlighting “Who We Are” and what we mean to our communities. Members of the Wisconsin American Legion Family are doing wonderful things throughout the state. Many of these good deeds go unreported - None go unnoticed. We are changing lives one Veteran and one Child at a time.

The information contained in this ‘pull-out’ is based on 69% of the state’s Legion Posts reporting on their Annual Consolidated Post Report. Picture how the numbers would read if we had reports from all of our Posts. Imagine how they would look if we were all connected and working with our Local Posts within our communities.

I am proud to lead Wisconsin’s Largest Veterans Organization. Together we are making a difference for Wisconsin.

Department Commander
Denise Rohan

The importance of local posts

Ask yourself: “If your Post were gone tomorrow, would your community miss you?” Would they miss having flags on Main Street or on veteran’s graves each Memorial Day? Would they miss the volunteers at the VA hospital? Would they miss having their children taught about the responsibility of being an American citizen or about the proper respect for the flag?

Just because we no longer wear our military uniforms, it does not mean we stopped wanting to serve our country. If you don’t already belong to a local Post and want to be affiliated with other Veterans still serving America, consider getting connected with a Post in your community.

Even if you only have a small amount of spare time, there is a place for you in your local Post. Please contact Wisconsin American Legion Department Headquarters at (608) 745-1090 or e-mail us at info@wilegion.org. The headquarters staff will help connect you to your local Post.

When a person joins through the National Organization, they are in a holding post until they are transferred to a local Post. In many cases, the local Post does not know they are members. We need your help to get veterans connected.

If you want to learn more about what we do and “Who We Are,” check out the activities at your local Post.

The Wisconsin American Legion State Headquarters and Museum is located in Portage, Wisconsin near the intersection of I-90/94 and I-39.
VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation activities are the cornerstone of The American Legion. They focus on the primary reason for the founding of the organization. VA&R services include assistance with medical care, claims and appeals, insurance programs, burial benefits, and veterans employment.

The Department of Wisconsin provides benefit and claims services free of charge through our staff at The American Legion Service Office located at the Regional Offices of the US Department of Veterans Affairs in Milwaukee.

VA&R ACTIVITY

$62,603 raised by Local Posts for VA and WDVA facilities
42,869 volunteer hours by 932 registered volunteers at VA & WDVA facilities
5,345 cases handled by Post & Department Service Officers
Over $98,000,000 in direct benefit payments to Wisconsin veterans in 2010 as a result of the work of the Department Service Office
1,420 veterans employed over the last 12 months with assistance of The Wisconsin American Legion Family.

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION

Camp American Legion, located in The American Legion State Forest in Oneida County, has a rich history dating back over 85 years. Since 1925, the vision of camp has focused on the rehabilitation of our injured comrades.

Recognizing the evolution of medical science, Camp is making strides to meet the diverse needs of our military today. The word “rehabilitation” itself has expanded in definition.

This past year at Camp was one of eye-opening, dynamic change and transformation. It was a year that defined and set into motion a new organizational vision for camp. We celebrate our past and embrace a new future.

A natural out-growth of this new vision has been our ability to reach out and help many more veterans and active duty military that need and can benefit from camp. In a natural way, it has created an expansion of our camp services. Our camp outreach and programs now cover:

- Family & Couples reintegration – bringing families and couples back together following a deployment or other separation.
- Survivor Outreach Services (Families-of-the-Fallen) – reaching out and helping our families who have lost a service member.

Because life is dynamic and ever changing, we will continue to learn and evolve. There is much more to learn and discover as we move forward as a Legion Family. All of us in The American Legion will play a part in Camp’s future success. We are in this together. Camp’s new vision is your vision; our vision.

- Physician documented (physical/psychological) illness, injury or disability – this will always be our primary qualification.

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION 2011

- 434 veterans/active duty; 8% increase
- 582 total campers; 15% increase
- 57 females; 46% increase
Americanism programs of The American Legion are designed to cultivate leadership, sportsmanship, citizenship and character for young people, our next generation of leaders. Programs such as the Oratorical Contest, Junior Shooting Sports, Legion Baseball, Badger Boys State and Boys Nation have been enriching the lives of young people for years.

The U.S. flag is the most recognized symbol of Americanism, a pillar of The American Legion. Veterans and their families understand the price in blood our nation has paid to keep Old Glory flying, and believe it should be protected against acts of desecration. The Legion has been focused on this issue since a 5-4 Supreme Court ruling in 1989 defined flag-burning as a form of free speech. The Citizens Flag Alliance (CFA), a Legion-led coalition of more than 140 organizations, builds awareness of the issue and seeks support from Congress; the House has passed flag-amendment resolutions six times by supermajorities, but the Senate has fallen short. Recently flag protection legislation has been introduced in Congress.

Americanism Programs
- High School Oratorical Contest
- Junior Shooting Sports Program
- Badger Boys State
- Support for Scouting Activities
- Scholarships
- American Legion Baseball

The American Legion’s Children & Youth programs strive to strengthen families, support organizations that help young people, and maintain programs that meet the physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual needs of minors facing challenges.

In 1954, the Legion endorsed the separate incorporation of the Child Welfare Foundation. The CWF today works by awarding grants yearly to organizations that contribute to child welfare through the dissemination of information. To date, more than $11.3 million in CWF grant money has been awarded, fulfilling the duty the founders of the Legion took upon themselves to provide “a square deal for every child” in the aftermath of World War I. In 2010, the CWF awarded $666,670 in grants to 21 nonprofit organizations.

The Family Support Network connects volunteers to military families to help wherever needed, especially when a parent is deployed. The Temporary Financial Assistance program provides cash grants to help veteran families with minor children make ends meet during difficult times.

Support for Children & Youth
- Children’s Miracle Network
- Operation Military Kids
- Substance-abuse awareness and reduction
- Ensuring child safety
NATIONAL SECURITY

The American Legion’s positions on national defense, homeland security and quality of life for military personnel and their families are housed within the pil- lar of Defense. The Legion works closely with all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and the Department of Defense to identify problems and help produce solutions. American Legion leadership is currently focusing on troop strength, military quality of life, homeland security, border control, the war on terror, cyberspace threats, and improvements to the military voting system. One high profile program is Operation Comfort Warriors, which provides comfort items for troops recovering in military hospitals and warrior transition units.

The Legion is also dedicated to the full accounting of POWs and MIAs whose remains are not easily accessed in some countries, along with human rights, and care for veterans and their families who live abroad. The organization strongly supports relief for the Montagnard people of Vietnam, who face persecution due to their support of U.S. military operations during the war. The American Legion encourages adequate funding to reverse the flow of illegal drugs into America.

All requests will be handled in strict confidence on a “need to know” basis. Anyone can make a referral. Applications and details are available at www.wilegion.org or contact Department Headquarters at (608) 745-1090.

The American Legion, Dept. of Wisconsin, PO Box 388, Portage, WI 53901.