

Wisconsin American Legion College

Many years ago, Mike and Denise Rohan had a vision of bringing the National American Legion College to Wisconsin in order to give more members an opportunity to learn about The American Legion. They developed a curriculum which was consistent with the National program and tailored it to Wisconsin. Bob Shappell has updated the original curriculum, keeping up with the constantly evolving Legion programs, and now offers an amazing learning experience.

The courses are meant to give members a greater understanding of the history of The American Legion and its programs, helping with more effective Posts, Counties and Districts as well as membership efforts. Members who have a better knowledge of The American Legion and the resources available are better prepared for discussions with new members. A better understanding of The American Legion also helps Post, County and Districts reach their goals and run successful programs.

The following is a brief description of each course:

Basic – This introductory course walks students through the Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies and digs a little deeper into the four pillars. The course is divided into the follow segments:

- Americanism, Children & Youth
- Public Relations
- Manual of Ceremonies
- Leadership
- Legislative Priorities
- Post Officer and Post Operations

Intermediate – This course takes segments from the Basic course and gets more specific with the how's. The course is divided into the following segments:

- *Administration* – Consolidated Post Reports (CPR), Post Finance, Post Fundraising, Post Management, more information on the National Organization and Emblem Sales
- *Membership* – Reactivating Struggling Posts and Starting a New Post
- *Manual of Ceremonies* – Discipline of Post Members, Parliamentary Procedures & Elections, Resolutions, District & County Conference/Convention Checklist, County and District Organization and Saluting
- *Legion Programs and the Four Pillars* – VA&R programs, National Security Programs, Americanism programs, Children & Youth programs and other programs of The American Legion

Advanced – This is the capstone course and culmination of all three courses. This course will involve working with teams to help solve some practical problems encountered within our Posts.

- Advanced Retention and Recruiting
- Legislative Programs and Priorities
- Advanced Leadership and Problem Solving
- Wisconsin American Legion issues and future challenges

The Basic and Intermediate Courses are regularly scheduled for the 2nd weekend in June and 3rd weekend in September. Any Post can host these courses by filling out a Request for Proposal which can be found at <http://www.wilegion.org/page/content/about/wisconsin-american-legion-college>. The Advanced Course, portions of the Intermediate and Basic courses and the ALEI course will be offered at the 2017 Midwinter Conference.

The good news is that you don't have to wait for these offerings! If there are at least 15 members interested in attending any of these courses, we can bring the college to you. We have a growing group of experienced instructors that we can choose from to accommodate your location.

In order to become an official graduate of the Wisconsin American Legion College, you must have taken the ALEI (American Legion Extension Institute) course and all three College courses. Once you have accomplished this, you can become a member of the Wisconsin American Legion College Alumni Association (WALCAA). Dues are only \$10 per year, or you can become a paid-up-for-life WALCAA member for \$100.