102ND ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION SCHEDULED

The 2020 Department Convention will be filled with educational, inspirational, spiritual activities... and equally important, camaraderie and fun.

EXCITING NEW EVENTS!

SATURDAY NIGHT PCC PARTY
Entertainment by Full Tilt DJ and Game Show
All in attendance will be involved. You will dance and laugh the night away!

ENGAGE22 SUICIDE AWARENESS WALK
Friday afternoon through downtown Appleton.
Register now at wilegion.org, $15 includes T-Shirt

SPEAKER LIST BUILDING WITH EXCITEMENT!

Come and be inspired by a lineup of speakers like never before. The UW will be in attendance to share with you their UW MIA Recovery and Identification Project. They will be fresh off their latest trip to find and identify our MIAs.

If you were lucky enough to catch Dr. Erich Roush's suicide awareness class at Midwinter, then you know what a great presentation he will bring to the Convention Stage on Saturday. We are excited to learn more from him. Dr. Roush has been in the U.S. Army since 2007: five years active duty and seven years and counting in the Reserves. He has served as an armor, signal, and medical officer and now serves as a psychologist in a Combat Operational Stress Control unit.

Keep up to date at www.wilegion.org for registration and housing information.

2020 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY
- Department Committee Meetings
- Department Executive Meetings

FRIDAY
- District Caucuses
- Convention Session with Speakers and Awards
- Convention Committees
- Meet Office Candidates
- Engage 22 Walk

SATURDAY
- Election of Department Officers
- Convention Session with Speakers and Awards
- Church Services
- Evening PCC Party with Full Tilt DJ and Game Show

SUNDAY
- Memorial Service
- Installation of Department Officers
- Post Convention Department Executive Meeting

REIGNITE PATRIOTISM SWEEPSTAKES

2020 Reignite Patriotism Sweepstakes is a way for all of us to celebrate American and the principles of The American Legion. Your gift of $5/ticket, $20/6 tickets or $30/12 tickets will help support programs that reduce Veteran suicide and substance abuse, expand services that heal our Veterans and their families, and inspire young Americans to love and honor our flag and country. Grand prize of $10,000!

Reignite Patriotism Sweepstakes drawing to be held July 3, 2020 via Facebook Live Video. Need not be present to win.
Greetings Everyone,

The world we live in is forever changing. I hope that this message is reaching everyone and their families in good health. The ongoing Covid-19 crisis has become the focus in everyone’s life. It will continue to be a major distraction not only in our individual lives, but also the programs of The American Legion. The Department of Wisconsin, will continue to move forward with our programs within the state the best that we can. We, as veterans, have been confronted with many challenges in our lives and within our communities. It is now, more than ever, that we as veterans need to lead by example.

We have protected our families and friends with our service to our country, but remember that we still serve those people and others with our membership in The American Legion. This is a great opportunity to do a “Buddy Check” not only for your fellow post members, but also your friends and neighbors. Show them that you care! Rest assured that the Headquarters Team is working remotely for the duration of the order which currently runs from March 25, 2020 through April 24, 2020, or until a superseding order is issued. The Department Service Office is working remotely at this time as well. Please contact James Fialkowski at james.fialkowski@va.gov or 414-902-5722 with any Department Service Office needs.

The District Commanders have rescheduled many district meetings as a precaution. We must remember many of our Legionnaires are in the vulnerable population. It is time to increase the Buddy Checks. We must do what we can to get our communities together.

I'm pleased to share with you that the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs is the recipient of a National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs’ Pillars of Excellence Award.

My peers nationally selected Wisconsin’s Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP) to receive this prestigious award in the category of Innovative State Program for our work to assist veterans who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless, who may have a mental health or substance use disorder, or who just need an extra hand to be successful.

We are so proud of our VORP program, not just because of the work that we do, but because of the work that ALL of us do TOGETHER to help veterans throughout this state.

The hallmark of VORP is its reliance on our staff’s direct contact with veterans in need, focusing on first developing a trust relationship that leads to coordinating and delivering wrap-around services in collaboration with our community partners.

Many veterans often initially refuse assistance. However, we know that if we can build a relationship, we can help. Since April 2018, VORP has assisted over 1000 participants with life-sustaining services. More than 1,500 connections to community resources have been made while VORP provided over 3,000 direct services including emergency housing, transportation, financial assistance and treatment for those unable to obtain substance use disorder rehabilitation through the VA health system.

I’d like to share with you one real life example of how we’ve helped. A VORP coordinator spent months trying to develop a relationship with an OEFOV veteran in Green Bay who was struggling. In an unforgettable day, the coordinator received an emergency call from the veteran who had just taken pills along with a little of vodka. The veteran realized he didn’t want to die and called the now-trusted coordinator. The coordinator alerted emergency services and rushed to be by that veteran’s side. Thankfully, the veteran survived.

We then worked to get him treatment for depression and PTSD at a Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation treatment program. When he completed treatment, we found him permanent housing with the assistance of HUD-VASH. He is now working and living in Waukesha. The veteran recently told the coordinator who helped save his life, “Just wanted you to know that you are a huge reason I’m alive today and made it to where I’m at.”

This is just one of the stories that make this innovative program special. There are many instances where our valuable outreach has helped prevent suicide, homelessness, or the loss of a job. We’ve helped thousands of veterans of all eras successfully complete treatment programs. We’re stood by them as they’ve gotten medical services, and as they’ve healed and recovered. Then, we’ve provided them with tools they need to be successful after. And we’ve received dozens of notes of thanks, telling us that what we did for that veteran saved their life, their family, their home.

Thank you so much for your support of the Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program. Together, we are making Wisconsin a better place to live for veterans and their families.

David Wischer
Department Commander

---

CANCELLATIONS/CHANGES AS OF MARCH 30

- Commander Wischer’s Testimonial - Postponed at this time
- Annual Bowling Tournament - Cancelled
- Annual King Day - Cancelled
- Legion College Courses in Little Chute - Postponed at this time
- 2nd District Spring Conference - Changed to teleconference, contact District Commander Julie Mulh at 920-382-4028 if you wish to join the conference.
- 6th District Spring Conference - Moved to May 17th, will remain in Green Lake
- 7th District Spring Conference - Moved to June 8th
- 9th District Spring Conference - Postponed at this time
- 10th District Spring Conference - Moved to May 30-31, 2020
- 11th District Spring Conference - Moved to May 16th
- BBS Orientations - all online, there will be no in-person orientations. visit https://badgerboysstate.org/ for the orientations and latest information.
- Legion Baseball is still taking registrations, any future information will be shared when available
- National Oratorical Finals cancelled
- National Spring Meetings cancelled
- National Junior Shooting Sports competition cancelled
- National Boys Nation cancelled
- Badger Girl Nation cancelled

Stay up-to-date with The American Legion changes at wilson.org
Know the COVID-19 Facts! Check www.dhs.wisconsin.gov
As this legislative session draws to a close, we should look at what we accomplished for the veteran community in Wisconsin. We saw legislation signed into law which falls under three of our four pillars. The Assembly has adjourned for the session and the Senate will complete work in late April.

Commander Wischer has selected suicide prevention as his project for the year. The state was also active in this area with the adoption and signing of the following two items:

Act 83- Provides for grants to support peer to peer suicide prevention programs in high schools throughout the state.

Act 116- Requires all student identification cards to include contact information for suicide prevention hotlines.

The state is attempting to recruit veterans and their families to relocate to Wisconsin. When Active duty service-members are transferred to the state, their professional credentials or their spouse’s credentials are not valid in Wisconsin. This has been addressed by the following 3 acts:

Act 143- Reciprocal credentialing for servicemembers, former servicemembers, and their spouses.

Many returning veterans are pursuing higher education. There were several bills we supported to assist them:

Act 147- Transferring academic credits from military transcripts to the university system and technical colleges.

There are several bills we are hopeful for still in the Senate that were adopted by the Assembly. By the time you read this, we will know their fate. The first concerns the University of Wisconsin MIA Recovery Project.

The Governor supports the bill. Another is related to child custody for deployed members of the military or activated members of the guard and reserve. Each session sees over a thousand bills introduced; of this maybe 200 are signed into law. It appears that about ten of the bills we supported will be signed into law when the gavel finally drops on the session. Each is important to the military and veteran community in Wisconsin.

**LEGISLATIVE MADISON Act 124**
--- Relating to local regulation of honorary firearm discharge

**LEGISLATIVE MADISON Assembly Bill 731**
--- Relating to reciprocal credentials

---

**AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE TO DEPARTMENT**

**DUE DATE: May 1, 2020**
- Public Safety Awards
- Public Relations Awards

**DUE DATE: June 1, 2020**
- County Commander OTY
- Post Honor Guard
- Americanism Awards
- Post Chaplain Award
- Children & Youth Report (determines awards)

**DUE DATE: June 12, 2020**
- Historian Books

---

**ANNUAL LEGION PILGRIMAGE**

SAL Detachment Commander Bob Sirovina Jr, Department President Joanie Dicker-son, and Commander David Wischer took part in the 86th Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln, February 11-12 in Springfield IL.
102nd Annual Department Convention
Red Lion Paper Valley
333 W College Ave. Appleton, WI 54911
July 15-19, 2020

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, 2020, 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. You can also register online at www.wilegion.org.

First Name ___________________________ Last Name ___________________________
Street Address ___________________________ City, State ___________________________
Zip _______________ Home Phone _______________ Cell Phone _______________________
Email _______________________________ Member ID ___________________________ District ____
AL Post # ___________________________ Auxiliary Unit # ___________________________ SAL Squadron # ___________________________

ITEM AMOUNT TOTAL
Registration Fee $25.00
Registration Fee after July 13, 2020 $30.00
Friday @ 4:30 PM-Engage 22 Awareness Walk -Defeating Veteran Suicide (t-shirt Included) $15.00
Saturday Evening Event - Tickets @ $15 each (Entertainment, cocktails, and more) $15.00

For Walk Registration only: Shirt Size (M-3XL) _______ Total Enclosed: _______________
Make checks payable to The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin Or enter credit card information below. □ Check No. _______ □ Credit Card # ___________________________
Card Type ___________________________ Expiration date ____/____ Security Code ________

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

2020 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION ALTERNATE HOTELS LISTING

Room block at the Red Lion will open up on May 13, 2020. You can reserve available rooms at that time by calling (920) 733-8000.

CopperLeaf Boutique Hotel
300 W College Ave.
Appleton, WI 54911
920-306-8827
$139 / night

DoubleTree by Hilton Appleton
150 Nicolet Road
Appleton, WI 54914
(920) 735-9955
$139 / night

Fairfield Inn & Suites
130 South Nicolet Road
Appleton, WI 54914
(920) 939-8181
$149 single occupancy, $159 double occupancy

Wingate by Wyndham
1565 N Federated Dr.
Appleton, WI 54913
(800) 337-0070
$139 single & double occupancy, $149 triple & quad occupancy

HOW TO CONDUCT A BUDDY CHECK

by Greg Eirich and Larry Larson, Dept. Membership Committee

Larry and Greg created a story line where Larry, a member of a Rivers Falls Post 121 is calling on Greg, a member of same post who has not been to a business or social event at said post in some time. It is a very casual and friendly contact between these two Legionnaires. Larry has been a member of The American Legion for 25 years and is on the Post Membership Committee. Greg has been a member of the Legion for 5 years and has not attended any meetings recently. Greg was in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged after serving his country for 4 years.

The main idea of this story line is that the reader understands the importance of what a Buddy Check does for the recipient caller. Greg needs to come away from this engagement feeling that he is appreciated by the call and post/ American Legion. The hope is that Greg will eventually become active with the post knowing that the post cares.

Hi Greg, this is Larry Larson from River Falls Post 121. Our post is doing a Buddy Check call on all members of the River Falls post and I just wanted to touch base with you and see how you are doing and find out if there’s anything we can do for you and your family. (Greg) Thanks, Larry, for the call. No, I’m doing fine. Man, this is a surprise! I have never received a call from any member from our legion post and Larry, I have been a member for 5 years! (Larry) Greg, the American Legion has started a program called Buddy Check. It started this last year by National. All American Legion posts are to call their members in the fall and spring of each year and check on them to make sure that they are alright. This is long overdue Greg and I’m glad that National has kicked this in gear. (Larry) Greg, I see you haven’t come to a Legion business meeting or social in sometime. (Greg) Yes, I have been busy at work and have family responsibilities. I try to make meetings when I can. I still have 2 kids in school and so it is up to me and my wife to get them around to all of their school activities. I work 1st shift and so does my wife. We are busy chasing our kids around to their different activities. I’m also active in church and other local community organizations in our city. So Larry, you can see my wife and I don’t have much time for much else. I do enjoy the American Legion Magazine and the Badger Legionnaire. My family is doing great Larry. (Larry) Just a reminder Greg, that we do have socials. You and your family are welcome to come to these events. I understand not making business meetings. We have special events 4 times a year and would love to see you and your family attend one of our socials. We are having a holiday party on February 14th. By the way Greg, are you getting our post newsletter? (Greg) Yes, I am getting it by email. (Larry) Greg, that’s great! Thanks for your continued membership in the American Legion and thanks for your service in the U.S. Army. If I can be of any assistance to you and your family, please call me. Greg, we care very much about our American Legion Family! When it is convenient for you and your family to attend Legion activities please do so, we would be happy to see you! (Larry) Greg, glad you and your family are doing well. Great talking to you! Hope to see you soon! (Greg) Larry, thanks for the call! Bye.

The Buddy Check is recommended twice a year in November and March. There are many Legionnaires who aren’t able to attend meetings for various reasons. That personal call or home visit either once or twice a year makes a difference to that Legionnaire and his/her family. It shows YOU care!
Veterans Program
Call (608) 745-1090
Friday, June 19th
9:30 am-3:00 pm
3:00 pm-7:00 pm

To plan your visit.

After June 13th, call (920) 876-6000

Thank you for sponsoring a Badger Boys State citizen. We appreciate your support and hope you can join us in Ripon.

- Tuesday, June 16th
  9:30 am-3:00 pm
- Wednesday, June 17th
  9:30 am-3:00 pm
- Friday, June 19th
  3:00 pm-7:00 pm
- Friday, June 19th
  7:30 pm - Tribute to Veterans Program

Call (608) 745-1090 to plan your visit.

After June 13th, call (920) 876-6000

SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM

The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin held its 83rd Annual High School Oratorical Regional and Finals contests at Ripon College on Saturday, February 8, 2020. 116 contestants representing different American Legion Districts within the state competed in the Regional Contest. The contestants in the contest already won their contests at the local American Legion Post and their local county and American Legion District. The contestants give two speeches, one is an 8 to 10 minute prepared speech on the Constitution and one is a 3 to 5 minute speech on an assigned topic from the Constitution that is randomly drawn before the contest. The top contestants from each of the three Regional contests moved on to the Finals contest. The contestants compete for scholarships. The winner of the finals contest was District One’s contestant, Braiya Nolan from Williams Bay, who won a $3000 scholarship. Braiya was sponsored by Post 102 in Walworth. 2nd place went to District 5’s contestant, Elijah Anumolu of Milwaukee who won a $2500 scholarship; he was sponsored by Post 455 in Milwaukee. 3rd place went to District 9’s contestant, Breanna Patz of Seymour, who won a $2000 scholarship. Breanna was sponsored by Post 106 of Seymour.

The winner of the Finals contest would normally continue on to the National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis, Indiana in April to compete for scholarships. The 2020 Oratorical Finals have been cancelled.

SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM

Shooting Sports is one of the many programs under the Americanism Pillar. It is an air rifle program involving kids 8 to 18 years of age. It has not gotten the recognition as Legion Baseball or the Oratorical contest, but that is changing. I hope through this article it will promote and increase the awareness of the sport. In the last few years I have seen an increase in legion posts sponsoring clubs and the entries in the Department Postal Match. As always you can go to wilegion.org for information about the program, but I will give you a short overview of the program in this article.

The Postal Match is held once a year and is just that, postal, meaning targets are ordered after the 1st of the year, when an announcement is made. They are shot at the respective posts and mailed back to Department for scoring. This is for the Spouter category only, three age categories, Beginner 8-11, Junior 12-14, and Senior 15-18. Scholarships are awarded for the 3 highest individual scores in the Senior category. There is also a team trophy awarded for the team of 4 with the highest scores from a shooting club. Each participant is giving a medal just for entering as a thank you for being involved.

If you would like to be part of this growing program by starting an air rifle club, please contact me and I will answer your questions. It is a very rewarding feeling seeing these young kids develop not only their skills in shooting sports, but self confidence, discipline, safe handling, and taking instructions. The American Legion also has materials to teach a Basic Marksmanship Course. I can help you with that program as well. Please contact me at dwiekbike@gmail.com or 920-627-1879.

2020 JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS QUICK FACTS

One hundred one (101) participants from ten (10) clubs registered for The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin's 2020 Junior Shooting Sports Postal Match. Of these 101, 91 returned used targets.

SENIOR DIVISION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS:
- 1st place, $1000 scholarship and trophy will be awarded to Timothy Levensen from the Plymouth American Legion Air Rifle Club, Plymouth, Wisconsin with a total score of 257.9.
- 2nd place, $750 scholarship and trophy will be awarded to Fin Weber from the Walworth County 4-H Club, Elkhorn, Wisconsin, with a total score of 252.4.
- 3rd place, $250 scholarship and trophy will be awarded to Carisa Kleinhaus, from the Plymouth American Legion Air Rifle Club, Plymouth, Wisconsin, with a total score of 245.1.

BEGINNER DIVISION TROPHY WINNER:
- Jake Malphy, Pine River Sports Association/Richland 4-H Club, Richland Center, Wisconsin, with a total score of 238.1.

TEAM TROPHY WINNER:
- Plymouth American Legion Air Rifle Club, with a combined score of their top four shooters totaling 956.8 will receive a trophy for top honors.
- Pine River Sports Association/Richland County 4-H, Team had a 2nd place team score of 947.9.
- Washington County 4-H came in 3rd with 869.2 points.
- Walworth County 4-H took 4th

JUNIOR DIVISION TROPHY WINNER:
- Eli Muckler, Pine River Sports Association/Richland County 4-H Club, Richland Center, Wisconsin, with a total score of 262.9.

BASEBALL REGISTRATION UNDERWAY

Are you ready for some baseball? Registration is underway for American Legion Baseball. Register your team online at www.legion.org/baseball. Registration deadline is May 15, 2020 for returning teams and June 1 for new teams. The 2020 National and Wisconsin Baseball Rule Books are posted on the Wisconsin American Legion Baseball page wilegion.org/legion-baseball. Any season changes due to Covid-19 restrictions will be posted there as well. Questions regarding American Legion Baseball may be directed to Jen Swenson at baseball@wilegion.org / 608-745-1090 or Baseball Commissioner Roger Mathison at cvpstdcm@mwt.net / 608-558-1503.
As I write this article I am sitting and waiting patiently for the UPS truck to deliver the shipment of our new “comfort puppies”. Operation A.L.F (American Legion Family) is ready whenever and wherever the need arises to provide comfort to help children through the challenges of a parent’s deployment or their own hospitalization for major medical issues. I will be attending as many Spring Conferences as time and distance will allow and you will be able to meet our new “comfort Puppy” yourself. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Legion Family for their past support and I hope that the outstanding support you have given us in the past will continue as we move forward with this new program.

I have had the privilege of attending a wide variety of great events as your Commander this year. One that I particularly want to mention was the event hosted by the Hartland Squadron #294 February 14th and 15th this group staged a “sleep-out” to raise awareness of homeless veterans. There were cardboard boxes and tents where a number of people spent the two nights sleeping outdoors in below-freezing temperatures. In addition, they held a food and clothing drive. They raised an unbelievable amount of money that will go to help homeless veterans in the area. Since homeless veterans are the project I chose for us to support this year, I was honored that they invited me to participate. I want to extend my thanks to Squadron 294 for the outstanding work they did and congratulate them on a very successful project.

I have to talk a little about membership! First, we have three new squadrons that have been chartered so far this year: #324 Osseo, #33 Neenah, and #270 Theresa. Congratulations and welcome! I would also like to congratulate the 51 squadrons that are at 100% or more, 17 of those at an all-time high...outstanding! The Detachment is over 93% and leading the Central Division. Everyone has been working very hard this year and it shows! Thank you to everyone for the great effort to get those memberships in! We are doing great, but we still have a way to go to get to our 105%. I know we can reach that goal, so please keep working on getting every one of your members renewed and in.

Time for submitting your annual Consolidated Squadron Report is not that far away. Keep on tracking those hours and donations that you will be ready when it’s time to submit your report.

My name is Jen Swenson and I joined the American Legion Department of Wisconsin team in February. To those I’ve been honored to meet already, thank you for the warm welcome. My main duties are Executive Editor for the Badger Legionnaire and Program Coordinator for American Legion Baseball. I have always had a strong military appreciation so I’m very honored to be able to help serve our veterans, their families and their communities. I have a background in graphic design and have owned a free-lance photography business since 2010. That flexibility has served me well while home raising five kids. They continue to keep me busy as chauffeur and fan club most evenings. I’m looking forward to the opportunity to meet many of you in the future. Thank you for your service!
The 2020 Celebration of Freedom will feature the mobile 9/11 Never Forget Exhibit. The tours of the 1100 sq. ft. museum are given by Ground Zero 1st Responders who are all living history of the events. If you are interested in how you can get involved and become a sponsor of the 2020 Celebration of Freedom contact Angie at Legion Wisconsin Headquarters at 608-745-1090 or see https://wilegion.org/2020-celebration-of-freedom/ for forms and celebration details.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**SEPTEMBER 11TH AND 12TH 2020**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- May 8-9 Department Spring Meetings Portage Headquarters
- May 25 MEMORIAL DAY (Dept closed)
- June 12 Badger Boys: State Board of Directors Meeting Ripon College
- June 13 Badger Boys State – Ripon College
- June 13 Samsung Scholarship deadline
- June 22-26 WALLECA – Ft McCoy
- June 29 Baseball Association Meeting
- July 15 Baseball Scholarship Applications Deadline
- July 15-19 Department State Convention - Appleton
- July 3, 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY (Dept closed July 3)

**AMERICAN LEGION STATE GOLF SCRAMBLE**

*Saturday • September 12, 2020*

*New Berlin Hills Golf Course*

Host Post: H.A. Todd Post 537

92nd & W. Beloit Road

Milwaukee, WI

8:30 AM Tee Time • $80 Per Person

Four-person teams: 2 Legion Family members per foursome

*Includes 18 holes of Golfing, Cart Included*

*Lunch at turn around and Banquet at Todd Post 537*

*Extra banquet tickets are $25 per person. Raffles and Awards at the Banquet at 5:00 PM*

Post/Unit/SAL/Riders Chapter No. _______ (circle your group)

Team Captain: __________________________________________________________________________

Phone: __________________________________________________________________________

Team Email Contact: _________________________________________________________________

1. __________________________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________________________

4. __________________________________________________________________________

Checks payable and mail to:

Charles J. Cooney- 6822 S. 34th St, Franklin, WI 53231 or

David Wischer- W178N4851 Christopher Court, Menominee Falls, WI 53007

For more information visit: waukesha-wi.gov/1864/The-Moving-Wall

Presented by:
City of Waukesha Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department

1900 Aviation Drive, Waukesha, WI 53188 / 262-524-3737
Bob Shappell announces his candidacy for the high office of National Executive Committeeman. Bob is a PUFL member of Cedarburg Post 288. His Legion eligibility was earned through 26 years active duty service in the US Air Force after graduating from the US Air Force Academy. He has served The American Legion as Alternate National Executive Committee member, Department Commander, Second District Commander, Ozaukee County Commander, and three years as a 100% Post Commander.

Bob served on the Department Membership Committee, including a year as Membership Chairman. He also served three years on the Children and Youth Committee. At the National level, he served on the National Guard and Reserve Forces Committee for six years. During his time as National Executive Committeeman he serves as NEC Liaison to the National Security Commission. He is a member of the Sons of the American Legion (in honor of his father, a 63-year Legionnaire), American Legion Auxiliary (in honor of his wife’s active duty Air Force service), life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, life member of the Military Officers Association of America, and life member of the Air Force Association.

Bob is an affiliate faculty member of Cardinal Stritch University, teaching evening and online classes in business, management, research methods, human resources, and leadership. He has a master’s degree in management and supervision, and has completed all coursework toward a doctoral degree in business administration. His military education includes the Air Force Academic Instructor Course, Air Force Command and Staff College, and the Air War College.

Bob is a member of the 128th Air Refueling Wing Community Council, as well as the Wisconsin Army Community Advisory Board. As Dean of Education for the Wisconsin American Legion College, Bob is dedicated to making it the finest Department educational program in the nation. He is also the Director of Badger Boys State.

Bob’s in-depth knowledge of current Wisconsin American Legion programs, issues, and people makes him the ideal choice for a second term as Wisconsin’s National Executive Committeeman, and to represent and advocate for Wisconsin to the National organization.

Frank was born and raised in Northern Wisconsin and invested 20 years active duty in the US Air Force from 1974 to 1994. He has always been supported by his wife Linda and family in his work with the American Legion. Frank’s candidacy has been endorsed by the Kelly-Johnson Post 90 in Ashland and the Eleventh District.

Frank’s experience in The American Legion includes having served as Post 90 Commander from 2004 to 2017. The post had achieved 100% in membership for 7 years. He served as 11th District, 2nd and 1st Vice Commander and culminated his 4 years as 11th District Commander by leading it to 100% for 2016. His experience at department level includes member on the Camp American Legion committee for 2 years and member on the Communications Committee for 1 year. Frank served as a National member of the Media and Communications Council and Legislative Council, as liaison to US Congressman Duffy. During his service as 11th District Commander, he served as the Department Executive Committee liaison to the Americanism, Camp American Legion, Legislative, Communications and VA&R Committees. He’s also been a proud member of American Legion Riders for 10 years. Frank proudly served as Department Vice Commander in 2016/17 and Department Commander in for 2018/19.

Legionnaire Kostka is passionate about The American Legion and walks the talk with membership. As exemplified by his recruiting efforts, earning the prestigious National Silver Star in 2014 and Gold Brigade Award in 2015, 17,18 and 19. Over the last 8 years he’s recruited over 400 new members.

He’s always promoting how the American Legion supports our veterans at large and how local posts support their communities. He recognizes the value of our organization is with the posts and members. He wants to assure our NEC to be an effective voice for our department at national meetings and support national officers when they visit our state. Frank will work hard for our department and Legionnaires and therefore is asking for your support to elect him Alternate NEC.

Jeremy Nordie, seeks your support in being re-elected to the high office of Department Sergeant at Arms for Footville Post 237. He has been actively involved in post and county revitalizations.

Bill has attended three National Conventions and served on National and Department Committees. Department Committees include Membership, Liaison for the Americanism and Membership Committees. He has served as Escort for the Department Oratorical Contest in 2016 and Judge in 2020.

As a member of the Legion Riders, Bill has regularly participated in parades and as Funeral Escort; he is Historian of the Past Commanders’ Club, and has served as 40&8 Correspondent and is Chef de Gare. Charter member of the Wisconsin American Legion College Association. His candidacy is supported by endorsement from Post 237.

Bill continues to promote membership at all levels and support the Four Pillars, and the growth of The American Legion.

Thank you for your vote to this High Office. Thank you for all you do as Legion Members.
I am Mark R. Melton and would like to announce that I am running for the Wisconsin Department Assistant Chaplain position for this coming year 2020-2021. I have been a member of the American Legion for 7 years. At this time, I serve as 1st Vice Commander for the 8th District. I am a member of Post 161 in King and serve on their Honor Guard, currently serving as Commander American Legion Waupaca County and past Post 226, Manawa Commander. I am a graduate of the Wisconsin American Legion College. This year I am serving on the department’s Religious Emphasis Committee as vice chairman.

I am an ordained Christian minister and served as Chaplain for the Fleet Reserve Association Southwest Region for 3 years presiding at funerals in 4 states. I am a past Chaplain of Wisconsin American Legion District 8, past Chaplain for the Disabled American Veterans Department of Washington. I am also the Chaplain for the USS Kitty Hawk CVA/CV 63 Veterans Association.

I look forward in promoting and building the American Legions Service to God and Country program in our State of Wisconsin. I am retired and able to travel and attend all requested activities in our state.

Thank you for your support.

God Bless,
Mark R. Melton

---

UW PLATTEVILLE GRADUATES

LtCol Mac Kolar USMC (Retired) and UW-Platteville Alumnus (1969) is attempting to identify former students and graduates of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville who were killed in the Vietnam War, with the goal of memorializing them on campus. Among those initially identified are Francis Mulvey of Fennimore, Vasilios Demetris of New York and Daniel Gallagher of Blanchardville. With the assistance of former students and in response to a notice in the UW-Platteville Alumni publication three more have been identified. They are Ronald Blohm of Eau Claire, Dean Krueger of Reedsville and John Imrie of Johnson Creek. Any information of other students and graduates who lost their lives should be forwarded to Kolar at mackolar@verizon.net.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The past couple of months have passed by with a whirlwind of activities. February was filled with attending the state Oratorical contest, the 6th District Americanism Banquet, and celebrations commemorating the births of two presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Both the contest and banquet were well attended. It was great to see so many Legion Family members supporting our high schools as they shared their knowledge of our Constitution. Best wishes to our winner, Briaya Nolan, as she heads to Indianapolis for the national competition.

The Americanism banquet recognized the efforts of members of the Legion Family as they worked our programs – so many dedicated volunteers, working for our common goals of caring for our veterans and their families, educating our youth on their responsibilities as citizens, and strengthening their communities. We traveled to Springfield, Illinois, where we met up with other members of our Wisconsin Legion Family and brought greetings to our national leadership on your behalf. The ceremony at Lincoln’s Tomb is always a fitting remembrance of President Lincoln’s legacy.

The Milwaukee County Council of Units hosted a luncheon commemorating the birthday of our first president. This was another wonderful celebration where members of the Legion Family gathered to share food and fellowship. Our Central Division National Vice President, Ruth Gott of the Department of Michigan, was our guest speaker. What a delightful lady she is! Though her time with us was limited, we had a great visit as we shared some of the local sights and toured the spinal cord unit at Zablocki VA Medical Center.

These are just a few examples of how our members are working together to achieve our goals. All units, large and small, can make a difference. This is the time of year when we are collecting data, organizing our thoughts for year-end reports, and attempting to capture the essence of what it means to be a member of an organization dedicated to ensuring our nation’s heroes and their families continue to be cared for long after their active service is completed. We must also look to the future. Time marches on and we all age. One day, we will not be able to do all the things we do today. Who will take over when we can no longer do it? Who will continue our work? Are you mentoring your replacements, or will your unit fade away like so many have in recent years? The need for our services is not diminishing and, as a result, our need for younger members who understand the importance of our work continues. I pray you are recruiting, engaging, and mentoring our future leaders. Our veterans need us. Will we be here for them?

Linda Coppock
Department Chairman
Email: beatrice2554@gmail.com
Ph: 920-982-5811
I believe we are sailing into Spring?!? Not sure it is smooth sailing, but the anchor should have been raised and sails set as we sail forward!

April is the month National President Nicole has set aside for “One Week of Caring & Sharing for the Next Century of the ALA.” For one week this spring, April 1-7, 2020, she is asking Unit members and leaders to work together to contact all members of their unit. If you have not already started this, now is the time to begin. With the recent closures of many statewide activities because of the concern over the coronavirus, unit members should have taken advantage of the opportunity to start calling members to check on their wellbeing. With the closing of the schools, this also was/is an opportunity to work with Junior and S.A.L. youth members wanting to earn patches from the Jr. Patch Program!

I have been asked “how do you start” or “how do you get active Junior members?” First of all, do you have Junior members? If so, pick a time to gather them, introduce yourselves and an activity/project with them. I currently started working with my unit Junior members by introducing them to the ALA Junior Patch Program. For two hours on a Saturday morning, we went through the requirements, circled the ones we thought they could do, did them and checked them off. We have now met twice and I am surprised at the eagerness they have shown in wanting to finish all of the patch requirements! Remember, planting the ALA seed early is a great thing, because junior members are the course to our future. Sailing into May, we should be finished with membership goals, correct?!?

Department Membership Award Incentive Reminders:
• Individual Awards – Set the Course entry: Members who recruit NEW members will be entered in a drawing to win $75. An entry may be submitted for EVERY new member you recruit. Eight winners will be picked at random. Entry forms must be submitted to Department no later than June 3, 2020. Note: Only one entry per recruiter.

Set the Course, stay afloat!

MEMBERSHIP

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin
OFFICIAL CALL
To the 100th Annual Department Convention
Thursday – Sunday, July 16-19, 2020
Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley and Conference Center
333 W College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911

The 100th Annual Department Convention will be called into session at the Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley and Conference Center, 333 W College Ave, Appleton, WI 54911. Convention general session will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, July 17, 2020.

The purpose of the department convention is to elect officers for the 2020-2021 administrative year, elect delegates and alternates to the national convention, amend the department constitution, bylaws and standing rules as needed, receive reports of the department officers and chairmen, recognize outstanding unit achievements and transact business as may be brought before the convention body.

Representation / Delegates & Alternates
Representation in the department convention shall be by unit, in accordance with the provisions of the department constitution. Prior to department convention each unit will receive information showing the total number of paid members as of June 17, 2020 and advising them of the number of delegates the unit is allowed.

Setting a Course for the Future

WISCONSIN MEMBERSHIP

93.47% 92.15% 91.51% 91.07% 90.84% 90.24% 90.16% 86.66% 84.42% 84.24% 84.21% 82.22%
Due to Wisconsin’s “Safer At Home” Order, ALA Headquarters is closed until April 24th or until a superseding order is issued.

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

Becky Mueller
Department Chaplain
Email: clarenceandbecky@aol.com
Ph: 920-833-6048

Jesus said “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven, belongs to such as these.” Matt. 19:14

April is Children and Youth Month in the American Legion Family year. Our God would approve. God knew the value of children and youth. Remember Miriam who as a young girl approached Pharaoh’s daughter and securely Moses’ future. Look to the example of Sannah – who the priests and elders no longer would listen; God spoke to a child who grew up to become a great prophet. Look at David – the youth who defeated the Philistine giant Goliath and became the greatest King of the Jewish nation. Look to the example of the young mother, Mary, who gave birth to our Savior – who loved children and wanted them to come to him. One of the pillars of our organization is working with children and youth. April is a great opportunity to fulfill our mission and to honor God.

Our Legion Family is facing many challenges this spring. COVID-19 has thrown us a curve ball as we volunteer and work our programs. As we are discouraged from visiting facilities including hospitals, nursing homes and schools, we have to be more creative in providing our services. We are still determined to make a difference in our veterans’ and military lives.

We must join together in prayer for the health of our nation and world. We must pray for those that are becoming more isolated because of quarantines and closures. We must pray for knowledge and creative insight for ways to be part of the solution. For the foreseeable future everyday life is being disrupted. Those that will feel the most are the children and youth who are being separated from their school friends, being denied their games and competitions, who are asking questions we can’t answer.

Let us join together as we honor God by reaching out to our children and youth in this time of insecurity and be that stabilizing presence in their lives and our communities. Look for opportunities to hold them close in our prayers and arms.

God bless all of you and stay safe and healthy.

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us ~ Thrupp 1836 & Bradbury 1859

Savior, like a Shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy fields prepare.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Bonnie Donniak
Executive Secretary/Treasurer
Ph: 608-745-0124
Email: deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org
Website: www.amlegionauxwi.org

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs has restricted access to VA hospitals and veterans homes in an effort to minimize the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). As a result, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Poppy Shop located on the grounds of Zablocki VAMC was closed in early March. A special thanks is extended to all of our veteran poppy makers who continue to work through this global crisis and to Poppy Shop employees Sue Hembrook and Shirley Meyer who are working from home to pack and ship orders. In the midst of rough seas, they held the ship steady and continued full speed ahead! Orders received after March 10, 2020 were returned as we cannot guarantee poppies will be available to fill the orders. Units that submitted orders before then will be notified if their orders cannot be filled by the date requested. Units may contact Department after all virus restrictions are lifted if they would like to order poppies for distribution later in the year. In the future, units and posts are encouraged to submit orders by the December deadline to ensure they get the poppies they need.

Kitty Larkin
Department Chairman
Ph: 262-649-3399
Email: kittyylitr@virgin.net

We encompass Children & Youth into our ALA programs at all levels, not only with our Junior Units but also through our schools and community lifestyles. Recently I discovered through a complimentary copy of a local newspaper that I have been missing a very great deal of community youth happenings by not reading the local paper. On the first few pages there were stories about two local youth who were participating in acts of charity and community service that would certainly be eligible for Good Deed Awards. These were pointed out to local units to follow the activities and perhaps nominate these youth to receive awards. It is our obligation to not only follow through with these opportunities but also to help create activities that would entice our youth to consider the possibilities of doing good deeds with or without recognition. This could be the beginning of learning that a life of volunteerism could begin with good deeds.

Deed Awards are given throughout the year and have no deadline. Fill in the form from the website and submit it to our Department Secretary who will forward it to the National ALA organization.

Our Children & Youth Programs are multi-faceted in that they are American Legion Family Programs. The Star-Spangled Kids program, which is sponsored by The American Legion, can be worked through your local school system to teach and test students about the ideals of the U.S. Constitution. The Oratorical Contest is where high-school aged students can demonstrate their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and could be the very beginning of honing competitive skills that will open new avenues of understanding our world of politics and adventures.

Delve into another facet of the Children & Youth Program through the employment of the exciting Beads of Courage Program. This program deals with children who are diagnosed with a serious illness and are thrust into the confusing world of poxes, medical treatment and long hospital stays away from the comforts of home. It can be a long-range program to be worked with Junior Units or on the Senior level. I would encourage everyone to check out this program on the National ALA website where it is listed under Children & Youth. It lists FAQs about Carry a Bead and the Bead Bag Pattern Guidelines. This program could not only affect military families but also numerous families working through a children’s hospital.

A very important part of the Children & Youth Program includes reporting because we need to report to Congress on dollars and hours spent in service to active duty military, veterans and their families. The Mid-Year reports in this field were very sparse but we are grateful to everyone who participated in both activities and reporting. We anticipate more complete Unit Year-End Impact Reports and Unit Annual Narrative Reports which will be more representative of the activities across the state. All Units have received a packet of the forms with detailed information on what is included in reports and where to send them. Additional forms and information are on the department website.

PRESIDENT’S PRAYER BOOK

Unit members, including Juniors, are encouraged to pray and write reflections, drawings and pictures for President Joanie Dickerson’s Prayer Book. During this time of restricted activities and group gatherings perhaps you could share those prayers, thoughts, meditations, and stories that have been a special inspiration.

Submissions may be sent to Department Chaplain Becky Mueller at claranceandbecky@aol.com or N7737 Miller Road, Black Creek, WI 54106 and should include the submitter’s name and contact information.
Mary Petrie  
Department Chairman  
Ph: 920-261-8161  
Email: mnrtpetrie@charter.net

**Duty, Honor, Country...**Freedom was earned through the service and sacrifice of brave men and women, many barely adults, willing to fight for their country, gifting us with privileges still eluding other countries. Think back to your school days. When you did well on an assignment, the teacher placed a gold star on your paper. If you practiced faithfully and performed your piano piece perfectly, a gold star appeared on the page for your parents to see.

A gold star has long been a symbol of honor, but sometimes one that no one wants. The families of soldiers who gave their all experienced a loss like no other.

“Somewhere today a soldier died for me. I pray I am worthy of their sacrifice.” Those words pack a powerful punch and are ascribed to First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. Some say she wrote them; others credit someone else, who then gifted them to her. Whichever is true, they are part of a prayer she spoke daily and carried in her wallet.

**Dear Lord,  
Lest I continue my complacent way, help me to remember that somewhere, somehow out there, a man or woman died for me today.  
As long as there be war, I then must ask and answer, am I worthy dying for? I will try every day to earn the sacrifice that men and women are making on my behalf. I hope when the war is done that the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen will think that we were all worth dying for.**

It’s so very easy to take for granted the freedoms we have, forgetting the heavy price paid.

A recent church service referenced John 15:13...Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. Circumstances often place our military in harm’s way. Let us never forget that freedom is not free...the price tag is high.

As Memorial Day approaches, pause for a moment to reflect on the true meaning of the day. It’s not just a day off work, the first unofficial day of summer, or the start of picnic season. It is a time of remembrance, a time to remember those who gave their all, a time to remember those who served and didn’t return, a time to remember the tears and heartache of those families who lost a loved one.

While we can never repay that loss, we can promise that we will always remember the ultimate sacrifice made for our freedom.

**We remember...**

---

**POPPY PROGRAM**

Diane Steinert  
Department Chairman  
Ph: 920-573-1840  
Email: djdsteinert@gmail.com

Each year, especially during the month of May, members of The American Legion Family distribute poppies with a request that the person receiving the flower make a donation to support the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs.

In accordance with The American Legion Poppies Program and poppy fund rules (revised in 2013 and 2014 by The American Legion National Executive Committee), poppy funds may be used for the following:

- For the rehabilitation of veterans honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces after April 6, 1917.
- For the welfare of the families of veterans of the above-named period.
- For the rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel returning home and awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals.
- For the welfare of veterans, active military personnel, and the families of veterans and active military personnel of the above-named period where financial and medical need is evident.
- For the purpose of poppy kits and supplies used to make symbolic poppies and poppy items that will be distributed for donations to the poppy fund.

This list and other information on the use of poppy funds may be found in the Poppies Program Guide, which is available for download at www.ALAforveterans.org/Programs/Poppies or can be purchased from American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales. Also, check the Poppy Fund Suggested Donation Form available on the department website www.amlegionauxwi.org/forms.

As we near the end of our reporting year, I look forward to hearing and seeing the many ways our units have promoted the Poppies Program. Did your unit increase poppy revenue this year? Does your unit or district have a Little Miss Poppy? Completing the Unit Year-End Impact Numbers Report and Poppies Program Narrative Form make it easy to report your success. Please include photos and newspaper articles showing your poppy creations, poppy posters and Little Miss Poppy.

- **Narrative reports are due April 15, 2020.**
- **Poppies Poster Contest and Department Little Miss Poppy Contest entries are due May 1, 2020.**
- **National Poppies Day** is just around the corner. On Friday, May 22, 2020 wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation’s uniform.

---

**LEGISLATIVE**

Char Kiesling  
Department Chairman  
Email: charkiesling@gmail.com

“Army of One” was the shortest-lived recruiting slogan in US history. It was meant to stress the strength of the individual. The Army dropped the slogan relatively quickly because they realized it was contrary to the reality that, in the army, you are completely reliant upon your team. In a stressful situation, the individual can be overwhelmed. He or she needs others.

I feel that at the American Legion’s 60th Annual Washington DC Conference in early March, that the power of one can work, but many can help get TAL Legislative Agenda and advocacy work for our veterans, service members and their families done! Because most members are reluctant to write to their members of Congress, the average Legislator treats each letter, call, legislative visit or whatever means you use to reach your Senators or Representatives, as the opinion of 100 –200 of their constituents. Your ONE contact carries significant weight.

This conference gives our organization’s leadership a chance to meet our elected officials to discuss our initiatives and important issues to the American Legion Family. This is when the voices of many can make a huge and significant impact! On Monday, March 9th, we attended a ‘Know Before You Go’ presentation to inform members of the priorities supported by the American Legion Family. In this meeting, we reviewed and were updated on all legislation that appears in the Legislative Agenda for the 116th Congress, which I posted in my February monthly Legislative page. We were explained processes and the use of the database and ‘Voter Voice,’ used to keep us updated and how it is possible to notify us of important issues needed to be addressed, sometimes very quickly! One statistic that really made an impression and should for all...there are up to three million prospective voices that could be heard in our organization, The American Legion Family!

Prior to “storming the hill,” we all gathered for the ‘Commanders Call’ where among others, we were able to hear from the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie. This was very informative and heartfelt. That afternoon I was honored to be accompanied by two of our great leaders, Legislators Al Richards and Robert Batty, to visit Wisconsin’s 6th Congressional District Representative Glen Grothman. Representative Grothman is on board for our veteran’s issues and understands we need his support and influence. A great tool I highly recommend to members is TAL Legislative Handbook. This document helps educate us in the legislative structure and points out further “Can One Person Make A Difference?” As I noted previously...ABSOLUTELY! Think Spring and Think Legislation!

---

**ALA DEPARTMENT CONVENTION HONORED GUEST BERNADINE “BERNE” BAER**

**TERESA ISENSEE**  
PPP Dept. Chairman  
Ph: 715-667-3528  
Email: tisesnee2173@gmail.com

Past Department President Bernadine “Berne” Baer will be the honored guest at the 2020 Department Convention in Appleton at the Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley, July 16-19, 2020. Everyone is invited to dinner at the Appleton American Legion Post #38 to honor our District Presidents, District Membership Chairs, and Senior Vice President and on to her goal of being the Department President 2005-2006 Auxiliary year. Her Department Commander was Ted Duckworth. Bernie has been a counselor at American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State and has served on the committee for several years, in addition to serving as Chairman on several Department Committees.

Berne’s theme was “Embrace Our Veterans,” and her special project was to help families of deployed soldiers. Her pin was a bear holding the State of Wisconsin Emblem and the years 05 and 06 on his paws.

Please join me in thanking Bernie for her years of service to the American Legion Auxiliary.

BERNADINE “BERNE” BAER  
Past Department President (2005-2006)
**CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT: DIANE WEGGEN**

Diane Weggen announces her candidacy for the office of Department of Wisconsin President. Her goal will be to increase American Legion Family membership and involvement by bettering delivery of Auxiliary mission to serve veterans, military, their families and communities.

A Gold Star sister and 37-year Paid-Up-For-Life American Legion Auxiliary member, Diane joined through the service of her brother Jerry, a Navy pilot who lost his life on a training mission during the Vietnam War. From a family of veterans – late husband Don ald served in the National Guard; brothers Bob, Army and Tom, Air Force; son James and daughter-in-law Jennifer, Navy; and grandson Nick, Air Force – Diane has a vested interest in serving veterans.

Two married children – daughter Maggie and son James in Virginia – and five grandchildren comprise Diane’s family supporting her Auxiliary work. Cecil Tormey ALA Unit 118, and Clark County ALA Council endorse Diane for the office of Department President. In addition to unit, county and district president, Diane has held other American Legion Auxiliary offices and chairmanships, has worked the week at ALA Badger Girls State and was a committee member for the 2010 National ALA Convention held in Milwaukee. Currently she is Department Senior Vice President and Service to Veterans Chairman. Taking civic leadership roles, Diane serves as a certified volunteer at the Wisconsin Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls, a member of ALA Coppock offered the home Recreation Committee, treasurer of Otter Lake Booster Club, active member of All Saints Parish, group leader of Holy Family PCCW, committee member for the Thorp Junior Achievement program and Partners with Our Lady of Victory Ascension Hospital in Stanley.

A firm believer in ‘Service, not self!’, Diane is passionate about the American Legion Family and volunteering for veterans. Diane Weggen will enthusiastically and diligently work to serve and lead the American Legion Auxiliary as Department President.

**CANDIDATE FOR SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT: LINDA COPPOCK**

Linda has been endorsed by her Unit 512, and Outagamie County Council, along with the support of her family, as a candidate for Department Senior Vice President for the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin.

Through the service of her stepfather, Earl Burton, Linda has been an active auxiliary member since she joined at the age of 6. She is also a Paid-Up-For-Life member and Linda has served the ALA in many capacities over the years. She has been an officer and/or a chairman for her Unit, County, District and now the Department of Wisconsin. She has recently revitalized the Junior members of her Shiocton Unit 512 and finds working with these young members very rewarding. (They are our future!)

Linda and husband of 30 years, Gary, a Vietnam Era Navy veteran, are members of Most Precious Blood Parish and the 7-11 Club in New London, where they reside. Linda is a member of the Shiocton Area Veterans Memorials. They have three daughters, Jennifer Gardiner (a dual member), Michelle Bellile and Suzanne Heuer and son, Retired Army Reserve Major Stephen B. Olk. They enjoy spending time with all ten of their grandchildren and their one great-granddaughter.

As Department Membership Chairman this past year, Linda has become more aware of the struggles some units have to retain and/or gain members and accomplish their goals to continue to support our Auxiliary missions. Working closely with unit members is something she looks forward to here of Chippera Veterans where and believes this may be a step to help the decline in membership.

**CANDIDATE FOR 1ST VICE PRESIDENT: MAGGIE GEIGER**

Maggie Geiger is announcing her candidacy for the office of 1st Vice President for the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin. Maggie has been endorsed by her Cedarburg Unit 288. She has proudly served in different offices and chairmanships in her unit, county and district. Some of her recent accomplishments include facilitating a WWII veteran to receive his Honorore Doctorate; held a Reporting Clinic with two members of Rose Harms Unit; is a co-founder of Sweat4Vets, a post to post walk established in 2016 which has raised over $60,000 to support Veterans; and had the privilege working with the Veterans Service Officer at Concordia University to plan “To Whom Honor Is Due” dinner for veterans, who have been chosen by their churches for outstanding leadership. She has also been active on the Department level serving on the Membership Team, ALA in the Know Vice Chair, ALA Strategic Plan #5 “Increasing Brand Awareness”, served as Poppy Chairman receiving Outstanding Poppy Program in Central Division, Department Historian receiving 1st Place Department History in the Central Division, Americanism Chair, and will again attend ALA Badger Girls State as a counselor.

Maggie is eligible for membership through her father, a WWII veteran. A 15-year Paid Up for Life (PULF) member, she has attended leadership trainings with the American Legion Auxiliary, including ALA in the Know, ALA Mission Training and the American Legion College.

Compassion for our Nation’s heroes, promoting ALA programs and its mission, serving God and Country with ALA members from Wisconsin, is her passion. Maggie and her husband of 44 years, SAL member Brian, are members of Hillpoint Church in Fox Point, and lifetime members of Ozaukee County Historical Society. She is the proud mother of son Pat, daughter-in-law Jack, daughter Katie, son-in-law Michael, grandsons Gabriel, Emre, Hoban, and granddaughter Theodora – all proud members of the American Legion Family.

Maggie has been blessed to serve as Department 2nd Vice President and asks for your continued prayers and support as she offers herself as candidate for Department 1st Vice President.

**CANDIDATE FOR 2ND VICE PRESIDENT: REBECCA (BECKY) MUELLER**

I am excited and humbled to announce my candidacy for the office of Department of Wisconsin Second Vice President. I have appreciated the opportunity to serve you for the past two years as your Department Chaplain. I especially appreciate those that have taken the time and energy to give me such positive feedback. All of you have been and continue to be a blessing to me.

I gained my eligibility from my husband Clarence’s service in the Army during the Vietnam era. I am also eligible from the service of my deceased first husband Richard Young, a Marine in Vietnam. My deceased father was an Army veteran who would now have been eligible to join this organization because of the Legion Act.

I joined the Krause-Kraft-Mueller Unit 106, Seymour in 2007. Since that time, I have served as Unit Secretary and President (4-year term) and on many committees and assisted in many projects. I was the National Chaplain President, 2018-2019. I still serve on Committees and wherever needed on the Unit, County District and Department levels.

The ALA in The Know events are very special to me. This past year I had the privilege of being the co-chairman with Maggie Geiger. This has been a wonderful opportunity to learn about our organization and to learn from each of you. Meeting with you and hearing of your accomplishments and concerns have been a highlight of my years as a presenter and now as chairperson.

Membership Chairman Linda Coppock offered me the honor of serving on her team this past year. I truly appreciated the chance to meet and talk to so many of you.

I have learned so much as your Department Chaplain these past years. Experiencing the care and compassion that you exhibit to your Legion family and beyond has been such a blessing.

I plan on continuing to work with our Department Strategic Planning Team along with the Centennial Committee. It is my goal to celebrate all that we have done and look forward to all of our future endeavors together.

The United Methodist Church has certified me as a Lay Speaker. I occasionally lead the services at my home church, New Life UMC, Seymour. I serve as the Lay Leader for our two sites and serve on multiple committees. I am especially drawn to missions and serving others.

For God and Country defines my calling and passion. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve this organization and, most importantly, you, as we navigate through the changes and challenges that are before us. Our mission is before us and I feel I can bring fresh insights and ideas to the table as we move into our second century of service to our veterans, our military, their families (us) and our communities.

Thank you for your consideration and support. God bless you and the USA.

**CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN: SUE HEMBROOK**

Sue Hembrook’s journey in the American Legion Auxiliary began 17 years ago at the unit level where, in addition to chairing many committees, she served as President for four years. She also completed a term as President of the Milwaukee County Conference of Units and before that was 4th District President. On the department level, Sue has served as Education Chairman and is currently the Hospital Representatives Chair for the Dayton House Residential Facility in Kenosha, Director of Hospital Volunteers, and Poppy Shop Supervisor. In addition, she was appointed to serve on the 2015-2016 National Legislative Committee, 2016-2017 National Education Central Division Chairwoman, 2017-2018 National Poppy Committee and currently National Central Division Children and Youth Chairwoman.

She is eligible for membership through the service of her late father, Norton Kaiser, a WWII Army veteran and her husband, Eugene, an Air Force veteran. She has four children and nine grandchildren, all members of The American Legion Family. One of her sons is currently a member of the Air Force Reserve and her son-in-law is active duty Navy serving in San Antonio.

Sue and her husband of 46 years are members of St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church in Franklin, where she has been involved in many committees and leadership positions. Her dedication to this organization will prove in her diligence to provide an accurate history of the coming year.
Aimee Korger is proud to announce her candidacy for Department Historian. Aimee is an active dual member holding a DEC position in both the American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion. The Korger Family is finally a true American Legion Family. Her daughter is a junior member of her unit, her son a member of the Sons of the American Legion, and after the historical change this year her husband has proudly joined the American Legion Auxiliary.

Aimee is looking forward to accurately recording the history for the Department of Wisconsin. She has only been a member since 2016 but since joining, has been very active and is always looking to learn more about the American Legion Auxiliary. When Aimee is not wearing her District President “hat” she is the President and Membership Chair for her Unit. She is also the ALA Badger Girls State Chair for her Unit and dedicates her time as a counselor at the week-long event in June. Aimee is always thinking about education as she is a substitute teacher and after school teacher for her local school district. She is also active in her community by serving on the City Council, a role that includes being a member of many Boards and Committees. Aimee has shown in the past years that her organizational skills and the ability to prioritize will make her an excellent candidate for the Department Historian.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis that we are facing as a Nation and the mandated restrictions on public meetings and gatherings, Aimee has not had a Unit meeting yet, but does have an approved endorsement at her County level and the District DEC. Aimee is asking for your support in her candidacy as Department Historian for the 2020-2021 Year.

Donna Jensen humbly announces her candidacy for the office of Department Chaplain. She is a Paid Up For Life member of the American Legion Auxiliary and her eligibility is through her brother who served in the Air Force and her husband, Past Department Commander Wayne Jensen, who served in the Navy during the Vietnam era as well as the Navy Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve and Air Force Reserve for a total of 28 years.

Donna has been active in the American Legion Auxiliary for the past 10 years serving as Secretary, Historian and District President in the 4th District, Sergeant-of-Arms for Milwaukee County and has been chairman and a member of several Department committees including Fundraising, Children & Youth and Leadership. She has also been a volunteer at ALA Badger Girls State and plans to continue her involvement this year and in the future.

It was a great honor to volunteer during the past two American Legion National Conventions held in Milwaukee in 2000 and 2010. She was a driver for the American Legion Auxiliary National President and the American Legion National Adjutant as well as serving on pre-convention activities.

She has been a member of St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Milwaukee for the past 47 years and has volunteered for many committees and activities there including singing in the choir for the past 28 years. Her faith, family and service to others are very important to her.

Donna and Wayne are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary later this year and have two daughters, Wendy and Sheila and two grandchildren, Ivy and Fiona who are all members of the Legion Family and belong to the Milwaukee Police Post/Unit #415. She retired from Travelers Insurance in 2010 where she worked for 25 years helping various jobs starting in a clerical position and advancing through various claim handling positions. Her goal during retirement was to be able to devote more time to volunteering.

Donna’s candidacy for Department Chaplain is endorsed by the 4th District and Milwaukee County. She has the support of her family to pursue this new opportunity and asks for your support in order to humbly serve the entire Legion Family.

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 38-Appleton donated ‘Joy for All Interactive Pets’ for the rehabilitation of veterans with PTSD, dementia, Alzheimer’s, anxiety issues and loneliness. Pictured (left to right): Ruth Eiden, Linda Breitzman, Rose Heinz (Outagamie County Council President), Debra Ragen, Marian Brown (Unit 38 President), and Nick Peskie, Donation Specialist.

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 38-Appleton donated ‘Joy for All Interactive Pets’ for the rehabilitation of veterans with PTSD, dementia, Alzheimer’s, anxiety issues and loneliness. Pictured (left to right): Ruth Eiden, Linda Breitzman, Rose Heinz (Outagamie County Council President), Debra Ragen, Marian Brown (Unit 38 President), and Nick Peskie, Donation Specialist.

### MISSION IN ACTION: APPLETON UNIT 38

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 38-Appleton donated ‘Joy for All Interactive Pets’ for the rehabilitation of veterans with PTSD, dementia, Alzheimer’s, anxiety issues and loneliness. Pictured (left to right): Ruth Eiden, Linda Breitzman, Rose Heinz (Outagamie County Council President), Debra Ragen, Marian Brown (Unit 38 President), and Nick Peskie, Donation Specialist.

### MISSION IN ACTION: 7TH DISTRICT

7th District Fall Workshop was held at the Grassman-Sowle-Larsen-Senz Post 201. All Units attending were challenged to bring school supplies to the event, with one unit taking all the supplies home for the school of their choice. The winner was Unit 26 Baraboo. Mary Spink was the newest member in attendance and was able to go back to her unit with all of the items. Mary had been a member for only six months at this event and came to represent her unit by herself. What a lucky day!

Picture (l-r): 7th District President Becca Gleason, Mary Spink of Baraboo Unit 26, and Helene Stein, 7th District Children and Youth Chairman. Photo contributed by Candy Lund.

### 2019-2020 DISTRICT PRESIDENTS’ RECOGNITION DINNER AND TRIBUTE TO HONORED PDP BERNE BAER (2005-06)

When: Thursday, July 16, 2020, 5:30 – 8:30 pm
Where: American Legion Post #38
4220 W. College Ave., Appleton, Wisconsin
Cost: $20.00 per person (advance purchase required)
Deadline: Friday, June 26, 2020

A dinner in honor of the 2019-2020 District Presidents and Honored PDP Berne Baer will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 5:30 pm. The District Presidents will be recognized for their efforts during the past year and membership awards will be presented. The evening’s festivities will conclude with a tribute to Past Department President Berne Baer. The entire Legion Family is encouraged to attend these celebrations.

Buffet dinner will include ham, broasted chicken, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberries, vegetable, cole slaw and a dinner roll. A cash bar will be available. Admission is by advance ticket purchase only. Reservations must be received by Friday, June 26, 2020. Space is limited to the first 150 reservations.

RESERVATIONS FOR DISTRICT PRESIDENTS’ RECOGNITION DINNER & HONORED PDP TRIBUTE

Make Check payable to: ALA-Wisconsin
Mail to: ALA-Wisconsin, PO Box 140, Portage, WI 53901-0140

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name on Ticket (print clearly)</th>
<th>Number of Tickets:</th>
<th>TOTAL DUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A $25.00 fee will be charged for any check returned by the bank.

If more reservations need to be listed, please add a separate sheet. Thank you.
**2020 AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY KING DAY**

The American Legion Family King Day will not be held on June 21, 2020 as previously planned. Please watch the Wisconsin publication and monthly unit mailings for details if the event is rescheduled.

---

**American Legion Auxiliary-Department of Wisconsin**

**ALA IN THE KNOW (Important Info for Every Member)**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

(Please submit one form per person)

Members are encouraged to register early---space is limited! Registrations accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Registrations received after capacity is reached, will be returned. No reservations will be accepted on site.

Session is $25/person and includes continental breakfast, light lunch, and program materials. Sessions will include information on a variety of topics and Auxiliary programs. New topics will be covered as we start a new century of service, so come out and join the fun!

Schedule for all conferences:

- 8:00 am – 9:00 am • Registration/Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 am – 3:30 pm • Informative presentation, lunch break, interactive program session, questions & answers

Please print clearly:

District: ___________ Unit #: _______ Unit City: ______________
First Name: __________________ Last Name: __________________
Email: ___________________ Phone: ☐ home ☐ cell: (______) ___________________

Select One:

- [ ] 09/26/2020
  - American Legion Post #59
  - 803 N Page Street, Stoughton, WI 53589
  - Postmarked by 9/4/20

- [ ] 10/03/2020
  - American Legion Post #449
  - 3245 N 124th Street, Brookfield, WI 53005
  - Postmarked by 9/11/20

- [ ] 10/03/2020
  - American Legion Post #87
  - 1404 Macauley Ave, Rice Lake, WI 54868
  - Postmarked by 9/11/20

- [ ] 10/10/2020
  - American Legion Post #38
  - 3220 W College Ave, Appleton, WI 54914
  - Postmarked by 9/18/20

- [ ] 10/10/2020
  - American Legion Post #121
  - 121 N Main Street, River Falls, WI 54022
  - Postmarked by 9/18/20

- [ ] 10/17/2020
  - American Legion Post #73
  - 6 Boon Blvd, Neillsville, WI 54456
  - Postmarked by 9/25/20

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $______**

[ ] A $25.00 fee will be charged for any check returned by the bank.

Mail check, payable to ALA-Wisconsin, by the deadline listed above to:

ALA Wisconsin, P. O. Box 140, Portage, WI 53901-0140.

Please share how your unit fulfilled the ALA mission during the COVID-19 crisis. How did you stay in contact and function as a unit during this time? What valuable lessons did you learn that would benefit other units in your area?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Please share one (1) question you would like addressed during the session: _________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

**MISSION IN ACTION: COMBATTING COVID-19**

Reminiscent of Rosie the Riveter days, Barbara Bowen (age 92!) of ALA Unit 434 in Oak Creek, is pictured sewing hospital masks in response to a plea from local nurses fighting the COVID-19 national emergency. Other members involved in this effort include Sue Hembrook, Bonnie Jakubczyk, Linda Miles and Diana Richard.

Please share your brief story of how you or unit helped combat the Coronavirus. Submissions should be 50-75 words and emailed to deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org for possible publication in the next issue of the Wisconsin.

**FEBRUARY 2020 SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Prize Amount</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>James Rohan</td>
<td>Verona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>Rebecca Oblack</td>
<td>Edgar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Mariann Baibich</td>
<td>Mayville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Shirley Rowe</td>
<td>Baraboo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Mary Stiglbauer</td>
<td>Watertown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Patricia Hodach</td>
<td>Fremont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Mary Boardman</td>
<td>Onalaska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Rosemary Gassen</td>
<td>Stoughton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Geraldine Nolden</td>
<td>Belleville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Louise Minisan</td>
<td>Mercer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Jeanette Larson</td>
<td>Black River Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Lois Hanson</td>
<td>Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Barbara Oswald</td>
<td>Wind Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Kathy Schaar</td>
<td>Wabeno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Christine Ducat</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Anita Patnode</td>
<td>Arkansaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Torria Rogstad</td>
<td>De Pere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Phyllis Schulz</td>
<td>Reeseville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Mary Lou Chemney</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Ludina Schmitz</td>
<td>Mt Calvary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Dorothy Corwith</td>
<td>Reedsburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Bonnie Kasten</td>
<td>Wausau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Judith Scherwinski</td>
<td>Butternut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Kathryn Golata</td>
<td>Lake Mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Karen Klein</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Lillian Hedler</td>
<td>Thorp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Marcia Stuckart</td>
<td>Lufkin TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Mary Schirmer</td>
<td>Plymouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>Kathryn Linden</td>
<td>Saukville</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>