The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin

2930 American Legion Drive
Portage, WI 53901

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FOR GOD & COUNTRY
BADGER LEGIONNAIRE
& WISCONSIN
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY | WILEGION.ORG

The Mission of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin is to provide service to veterans, their families and their communities.

Veterans Day Salute
On behalf of Department Commander Wischer, Adjutant Gear and the entire Wisconsin American Legion Family- Thank you for your service, sacrifice and dedication. We are grateful for all you have done to ensure the freedoms we enjoy every day. This Veterans Day, and always, we honor you.

2020 CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM
Thanks to all who made the 2020 Celebration of Freedom a huge success! The downsized, one day event, was well attended and had a hard-working volunteer crew making sure it was safe. The POW/MIA Silent March had a great turn out and finished by solemn rendition of Amazing Grace on bagpipes by Portage Assistant Chief of Police, Rich Hoege. Donors surpassed the Red Cross Blood Drive goal by 5 units. A huge thank you to Steve Isensee and the team of volunteers for your dedication! Throughout the day there was also a large National Guard presence. It was great to have so many boots on the ground here at Headquarters. New members joined the ranks as Legionnaires as well! In addition to money raised for our programs, the day was fantastic for public relations. Since the weather didn’t want to work with us, we were fortunate to have a very large tent! There was plenty of space to keep everyone dry and distanced. Mark your calendars, the next Celebration of Freedom will be September 24-25, 2021. Get your chili recipes ready for the 1st Annual Legion Family Chili Cook-Off!

Did you know?
- 1 DONATION CAN SAVE UP TO 3 LIVES
- EVERY 2 SECONDS SOMEONE IN THE U.S. NEEDS BLOOD
- LESS THAN 38% OF THE POPULATION IS ELIGIBLE TO GIVE BLOOD OR PLATELETS
- BLOOD AND PLATELETS CANNOT BE MANUFACTURED AND CAN ONLY COME FROM VOLUNTEER DONORS LIKE YOU

Thank you, Legion Wisconsin!
Your 35 units = up to 105 lives saved!

SEE PAGE 6 FOR MORE CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM HIGHLIGHTS!
Hello Fellow Legionnaires

Well, here we are entering October, and I’m wondering what happened to summer. It has now been eight months that everyone has been dealing with the Covid-19 restrictions and I hope everyone is staying safe and remaining healthy.

Some districts have held their fall conferences with many more scheduled to take place. For those districts holding elections, I want to congratulate all of the new officers. I have participated in a few P.O.W./M.I.A. silent marches the past few weeks and I want to thank those districts for their invitation, and also for their efforts for remembering our P.O.W.s and M.I.A.s.

We also have the Department Fall Meetings scheduled for the middle of the month in Portage. I hope to see as many members as possible that weekend. All Committee meetings will have a full agenda to attend to, besides it will be good to see one another once again. Necessary precautions will be in place to ensure the health and safety for all in attendance if you do attend.

On Saturday September 12th, we held the Second Annual, Celebration of Freedom event. This year due to the Covid-19 restrictions, there was some down-sizing, but it took place. The event was moved to our Department Headquarters grounds, where Mother Nature took a shot at us also by providing liquid sunshine. But fear not, the Headquarters Team was prepared, and had everything under control. The event went well into the night. Those in attendance were able to become more aware of what The American Legion has to offer; not only to our fellow veterans, but what “we” as Legion Wisconsin have to offer to “our” communities. A BIG THANK YOU, to all the volunteer workers who helped pulling this event together, and remaining positive, in spite of several distractions. I’m looking forward to a full report from the Foundation at the Fall meetings.

I want to discuss membership briefly. First, and straight to the point, have you paid your dues? Our entire Mission depends on membership dues. Our programs will suffer without the income that is received through membership dues. I’m aware that because of the pandemic, we have members that are having financial difficulties. As we say, “Family First”, can you or your post help out a Legion Family Member? Not everyone can do it, but let’s band “Together” and find a solution. We, as a Department, are currently in fourth place in the nation; let’s see if we can improve upon that. I guess it is true what they say, Ladies First. At the time of this writing, Jean Balz, Eighth District, and Julie Muhle, Second District, are leading the Department; Good Work and Congratulations! The new membership increase? New incentives are coming soon.

Post Leaders have a critical role when understanding Recruiting, Retention, and Attrition. Is your Post losing newer members? If you are finding it difficult to retain new members, time to change direction. Engage your Legionnaires, ask them where or how they would like to better serve within your Posts.

I will be pushing for 100% participation for 2021 Consolidated Post Reports (CPR). Leaders, please record your Post’s activities. The goal is to increase the number of posts submitting CPRs so we can truly report to the U.S. Congress the full impact we have on the lives of our veterans, their families and communities across the Department. There is no reason we should not have 100% of posts submitting CPRs by end of FY 2021.

Time to re-pack your rucksack as summer is over and fall is upon us. The Department continues to modernize equipment capabilities at our three locations. We look forward to supporting you!

Can you feel the weather changing? I certainly can here in Madison. We have had a break from the heat these past couple of weeks and I am enjoying brisker air. Wisconsin is a wonderful place to live in the fall, and I know you must also be enjoying the stunning colors of the changing leaves and exploring our state’s lakes and trails.

Along with beauty, fall brings with it a more unpleasant counterpart – flu season. I realize that as these months go on, it becomes tempting to let your guard down when it comes to viruses. But we need to keep up our good, safe precautions to stay healthy. By protecting ourselves from the flu, we also protect the people around us and keep our entire community safe. Simply put, if you don’t get sick, then you’re less likely to get others sick.

As we experienced in our Veterans Home over the past few months, viruses can spread quickly in small communities. Once COVID-19 entered our Union Grove campus in August, for example, it spread over the course of just a few weeks, even with our strict infection control protocols, and infected dozens of members and staff. It is especially important for those in our Veterans Homes to remain vigilant. We have both the flu and COVID-19 from spreading in our communities and then coming on to campus.

Veterans are no strangers to rolling up our sleeves and doing what needs to be done – and in this case, what needs to be done is getting a flu shot. The flu shot, combined with healthy habits like staying home when you’re sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and washing your hands thoroughly and often, and wearing a face covering when you are away from home, not only to prevent COVID-19, helps to keep you and the people around you from serious illness. Please continue to look out for one another – get your flu shot and continue to take care. COVID-19 has affected every man and woman who have served our country. We look forward to sharing the details of our Veterans Day virtual tribute soon!

“Wisconsin”

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin
2930 American Legion Drive
P.O. Box 140 - Portage, WI 53901

Bonnie Dorniak, Editor
Joanie Dickerson, Department President
Bonnie Doniak, Exec. Secretary/Treasurer
To change your address: Notify Unit Secretary, Notify Department Headquarters on a Member Data Form

The “Wisconsin” deadline for copy is 4 weeks before publication date.

**DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**

David Wischer
Department Commander

**DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT**

Nathan Gear
Department Adjutant

**WDVA SECRETARY**

Mary M. Kolar
WDVA Secretary
**THE FOUR A’S OF PERSONAL FINANCE STRATEGY:**

**ASSESS:** Be candid with yourself and acknowledge with where you feel that you are in your financial situation; you are never poor (behavior) but are you broke, living paycheck to paycheck, covering living costs and able to save $10 each pay period, married rich, or living off family trust fund? Your situation is your own, private business.

**ADDRESS:** Be honest with yourself and acknowledge what part of your financial situation gives you any anxiety. Jot down the issues that you find difficult with your situation and possible solutions – call on your trusted family and friends to help brainstorm options. Life is like a pathway, perhaps the road not taken, but every pathway varies in direction, complexity, elevation, and width throughout our lives.

**ADJUST:** Be mindful and acknowledge when life throws you a curveball, take it all in; you have gotten through the last one and with a good plan in place you can get through the next one. You cannot foresee the next pandemic, loss event, or market correction – but you are not alone. Identify the obstacle for what it is, and adjust (increase, decrease, maintain, stop) spending to keep your plan on track.

**ACHIEVE:** Be proud of the hard work you accomplished and acknowledge that this is actually the beginning of the next strategy. Achieving our goals may take a different path than first thought, but that is the point: we needed help and encouragement along the way to achieve our goals and, in turn, need to be there to help and encourage each other.

Every person, everywhere, is the exact right age, today, to begin making a plan to preserve, gift, or make their money stretch as far as it can possibly go. Start today by jotting down a few ideas of what you want to accomplish in this lifetime, who can help you along the way, and adjust your spending to make possible the success in achieving all your goals.

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**FINANCE DIRECTOR**

From the August-September Badger Legionnaire, a lot of great questions were received about making a personal finance strategy, key timeline, inclusivity, and appropriate age to start a financial strategy. Like those of us interested in making our dollars stretch to the max, readers really delved into learning more.

A personal finance strategy is just a fancy way of saying that we are making a Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Based (SMART) plan to manage our money, now, to achieve our goals down the road, i.e., get a car, join the military, go to grad school, get the dream career, family, toys, hunting property, college for our kids/grandkids, vacation, volunteer/make gifts, retirement, time with family and friends, final expenses and gifts. Remember the Four A’s to help develop your personal finance strategy.

I want to thank all the squadrions who took the time to file their Consolidated Squadron Report for 2019-20. In spite of not meeting or being able to finish things, we still had some very good impact numbers. Awards that were earned will be distributed to the squadrions as soon as possible. A list of winners can also be found on our website www.wisal.org. Congratulations to all the winners, your time and dedication to our mission is appreciated. Thank you to all squadrions for all you do for our veterans and our communities.

Our Commander’s special project will continue to be raising funds to help homeless veterans in our area. We need to do whatever we can to help these veterans! Every donation, large or small helps. We all have comfortable homes, warm clothes to wear, and plenty to eat. But there are many who are not so fortunate. Across the country, thousands of veterans are homeless, several hundred right here in Wisconsin. The fact that there are so many of our nation’s heroes that are sleeping on the streets or in shelters is a terrible statistic.

Veterans are not unlike civilians when it comes to being homeless. There is a lack of affordable housing options and they face other economic challenges as well. Veterans deal with physical challenges because of their service and frequently have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injuries (TBI), and substance abuse problems. There are programs to help these veterans and in spite of the progress that has been made, more is still needed. No veterans should be without a place to call home. Please donate generously to our special project.

**SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER**

**American Legion Foundation**

**Your Philanthropic Partner**

Your Wisconsin American Legion Foundation 501(c)(3) was created with you in mind; to provide financial support to the many American Legion, Department of Wisconsin programs and to act as a pass-thru for funds designated to Wisconsin’s American Legion Posts, Units, and Squadrons.

Your Post, Unit, or Squadron is already designated a tax-exempt nonprofit, 501(c)(19), eligible for grants to offset event, capital projects, and programming infrastructure costs (i.e. community/family event, computers for veteran online access, COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation). With the 501(c)(3) designation, your Post, Unit, or Squadron is now eligible to write for grants only available to other 501(c)(3) nonprofits. The Foundation is your best partner to accomplish your 2020 grant and donation fundraising goals. It is as Easy as 1-2-3!

1. Write or update your grants to list The Wisconsin American Legion Foundation, Inc. as the grant recipient (payee); have the grant check payable to the Foundation.

2. Once received, e-mail the grant award letter to finance@wilegon.org and/or mail the grant check to:
   The Wisconsin American Legion Foundation, Inc.
   PO Box 827
   Portage, WI 53901-0827

3. The Finance Office will deposit the grant check into the Foundation and issue a new check directly to your Post, Unit, or Squadron.

Together, the Foundation will help you to accomplish your fundraising goals.

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 1, 2021</td>
<td>Registration for Wisconsin American Legion Baseball opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1, 2021</td>
<td>Deadline for Junior Shooting Sports target orders</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 13, 2021</td>
<td>Oratorical Regional &amp; Final contests</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1, 2021</td>
<td>Deadline for Junior Shooting Sports targets – End of Postal match</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 12-19, 2021</td>
<td>Badger Boys State – Ripon College</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 23-27, 2021</td>
<td>Wisconsin American Legion Baseball State Tournaments- Juniors</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 27-31, 2021</td>
<td>Wisconsin American Legion Baseball AAA State Tournament</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 30-Aug 3</td>
<td>Wisconsin American Legion Baseball A/AA State Tournament</td>
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Preparing for the Future...

We have certainly seen challenging times as of lately. 2020 has shown us how fragile our way of life can be. When I finish my day and have time to reflect my thoughts and concerns are on the future. The future of our fellow veterans, our American Legion Family, my own family and this great nation of ours. But if life has taught me anything, it is never stop looking to the future and plan our path to better days.

Planning for the Future...

I remember being told “Hope”, while vital to our survival, is not a plan. Even though Camp has been closed for the 2020 season, we have been very busy with projects, repairs, and of course, planning for the future. This planning is detailed, discussed among our committees and continuous. If we are to see Camp American Legion into our next 100 years of operation and far beyond that; it will require ALL of us to ensure its secure future. Our calling is now! The recent times has tested our resilience. Now more that ever we need to come together for a common cause and hold each other up. While the love for Camp and its mission lives strong, we have seen a drastic decline in donations. We get it. We understand the events we have experienced have put forth challenges for fundraising efforts. The first half of the year many of us were not able to leave our homes. We could not gather together as a united front. We could not physically stand beside each other in support of our mission. Yet, through all of this, we have learned how to do things differently. We have discovered our innovativeness, we never stopped caring for each other and we never gave up hope! To move into the future, we need your help. We need the help of citizens across the state of Wisconsin. Of course, we have a plan to make it easy to get involved.

Sponsor a Veteran...

Since 1925, Camp American Legion has been a safe place for Wisconsin Veterans, Military and their families to come together with shared life experiences. When our campers first arrive, they find an abundance of opportunities to unwind, relax, rejuvenate and most importantly, to heal. As many of you already know, there is something about the Northwoods experience that helps us to find value in the little things in life. It helps families to reconnect, and brings opportunity for healing on our journey to finding quality of life.

Camp American Legion operates under The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin. Camp’s funding comes from the generous donations of individuals and organizations across the state of Wisconsin. Our “Sponsor a Veteran” program allows our supporters to provide the resources for a Veteran and their immediate family members to spend a week at Camp American Legion. A donation of $500 covers the cost for one qualifying individual for one week at Camp. Their stay includes three meals per day, served in our newly renovated dining hall, lodging in one of our 21 lakeside cabins, daily fishing and pontoon trips on the Minocqua Chain of Lakes, evening camp fires, a new Veteran resource center, access to miles of private nature trails and much more.

Your support is needed now to continue the healing legacy that is Camp American Legion! I want to thank Mike Handrick for working with me in drafting what we believe to be a long term sustainable fundraising program that provides opportunity for citizens across Wisconsin to get involved in supporting the healing process for Wisconsin Veterans and their families.

Our thoughts are looking forward to the 2021 Camp season. Our beliefs, our resiliency and hope guide our way. Our planning along with your support will ensure the future of Camp American Legion is strong for generations to come. Have a blessed fall!

Don Grundy
Facilities Manager
Camp American Legion

SAY “THANK-YOU” THIS HOLIDAY SEASON...
SPONSOR A VETERAN AT CAMP AMERICAN LEGION!

Camp American Legion at Lake Tomahawk, W1 is a one-of-a-kind, safe, and recreational place for Wisconsin veterans, active military members, and their families to come together with shared life experiences. When campers first arrive, they are transformed by the natural beauty of Camp and find an abundance of opportunities to unwind, relax, rejuvenate, and heal. This Northwoods Experience helps them to refocus and find value in the little things in life. It also helps families to reconnect, and brings opportunity for healing on the journey to finding greater quality of life.

This holiday season, give the gift of extended family and peace through the Camp American Legion “Sponsor a Veteran” program. Your sponsorship includes lodging at one of 21 lakeside cabins, three square meals, snacks, and all activities; including fishing, games, swimming, daily pontoon trips on the Minocqua Chain of Lakes, evening camp fires, craftworks, miles of private nature trails, the Veteran Resource Center, Chapel, and Recreation Center, just to name a few. The sponsorship is $500 to send a veteran, active military member, or their family member to spend six days, five nights at Camp American Legion.

Know of a veteran, active military member, or family member that needs the Northwoods Experience at Camp American Legion? Please call the Camp Office at (715) 277-2510 to sponsor your veteran, active military member, or family member, today!

GRAVE MARKER CLEANING PROJECT

Nine members of American Legion Deneen-McCabe Post 0432, Hammond-Roberts, took on the task of pressure washing the grave markers of all veterans buried in the three cemeteries under their watch. These include the Hammond Village Cemetery, the Roberts-Warren cemetery, and the St. Mary’s Catholic Church cemetery.

There were well over 200 markers that needed cleaning, many that were not legible. Some markers dated back to the Civil War. The attached photos show the “before and after” appearance of the Veteran’s grave markers. This project was a good way to show our respect and that we will never forget those that served before us.
The following information is not just for veterans. I have successfully assisted several “Atomic Veterans” or their next-of-kin in attaining their payments through RECA. I have written about RECA before, but the time to submit a claim is running out. The last day to file a RECA claim is July 10, 2022.

The United States conducted nearly 200 atmospheric nuclear weapons development tests from 1945 to 1962. Essential to the nation’s nuclear weapons development was uranium mining and processing, which was carried out by tens of thousands of workers. Following the tests’ cessation in 1962 many of these workers filed class action lawsuits alleging exposure to known radiation hazards. These suits were dismissed by the appellate courts. Congress responded by devising a bill that was carried out by tens of thousands of workers. Following the tests’ cessation in 1962 many of these workers filed class action lawsuits alleging exposure to known radiation hazards. These suits were dismissed by the appellate courts. Congress responded by devising a bill that was passed in 2000, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA), which was signed into law by President Bill Clinton. The Act establishes a program to provide monetary compensation to individuals who developed serious diseases after exposure to radiation released during the Cold War nuclear weapons tests. The program was designed to provide compensation to individuals who were exposed to radiation during the development and testing of nuclear weapons.

**RECA Covered Populations:**
- **Uranium Worker States:** Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.
- **Atmospheric Tests Onsite Participants:** Those located at designated test sites, such as the Nevada Test Site, or the Trinity Test Site.
- **Onsite Participants:** Those located at designated test sites, such as the Nevada Test Site, or the Trinity Test Site.

**RECA Compensation:**
- **Lump Sum Payments:** Each claimant is entitled to a lump sum payment paid to them directly by the Department of Justice.
- **Supplemental Payments:** Each claimant is entitled to supplemental payments paid to them directly by the Department of Justice.

You may call the American Legion Service Office at 1-800-729-7327 to make a claim or to ask a question. You may also send a letter to the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program, P.O. Box 146, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20044-0146. E-mail: Civil.RECA@usdoj.gov

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**District Membership Report as of 10/1/20**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Karl Stuverg</td>
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<td>Julie Muhle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Stone</td>
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**DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER**

James Fialkowski  
Department Veteran Service Officer

**Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA)**

- Following their exposure to radiation released during the atmospheric nuclear weapons tests, or
- Following their occupational exposure to radiation while employed in the uranium industry during the Cold War arsenal buildup.
- RECA establishes lump sum tax free compensation awards for individuals who contracted specific diseases in three defined populations:
  - Uranium miners, millers, and ore transporters – $100,000
  - “Onsite participants” at atmospheric nuclear weapons tests – $75,000
  - Individuals who lived downwind of the Nevada Test Site (“downwinders”) – $50,000.

**RECA Covered Populations:**
- **Uranium Worker States:** Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.
- **Atmospheric Tests Onsite Participants:** Those located at designated test sites, such as the Nevada Test Site, or the Trinity Test Site.
- **Onsite Participants:** Those located at designated test sites, such as the Nevada Test Site, or the Trinity Test Site.

**Address:**
U.S. Department of Justice Radiation Exposure Compensation Program  
P.O. Box 146  
Ben Franklin Station  
Washington, DC 20044-0146  
E-mail: Civil.RECA@usdoj.gov

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**BADGER BOYS STATE**

As the nation focuses their attention to the Presidential Election upcoming in November, much of that attention will be given to the candidates, political parties, pundits, and predictions. However, unlike in the recent past, the act of voting has been given more attention this year, mostly due to the pandemic and social justice conversations.

As municipalities see increase requests for absentee voting, political groups are being more vocal about voting registration, and the growing immediacy of the election, the importance of the voting process is getting more attention. As a nation, we are echoing the words of President Franklin Roosevelt, “Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could this is by not voting.”

At Badger Boys State, the act of voting and the importance of it is central to our teaching. Through the exercise of creating a state government within a week-long program, participants learn of the value of their voice, the power of their choice, and the honor of voting for their representation in government.

We provide junior year students the opportunity to partake in this foundational civic process. In fact, as 16 and 17 year old students, they cast their first vote for an elected official at our program. While our voting process is a simulation, the reverence that these students feel for the rights awarded to them as citizens of this nation remains the same. In a way, even though their vote does not count, it still matters.

Their vote matters because of the realization of what that process represents. It matters because it recognizes the sacrifices that many have made to defend and preserve that right of a free democracy. It matters because it binds the history of our nation to the present. It matters because it makes us all equal as citizens of this nation.

As the alumni participants of Badger Boys State, the act of voting is a duty as free individuals and active citizens of our communities. As we join our fellow citizens in November to exercise this right bestowed, we continue to serve the future generations by giving the act of voting its proper attention.

- Badger Boys State

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**SERVICE OFFICE THANK YOU LETTER**

Thank you Mitchell for all the hard work that you put into my claims.

I am very fortunate to have The American Legion Service Office help me through this process.

Thank you and the staff for staying open during COVID19 to keep working on claims.

I would probably still be waiting in turmoil for a decision.

You and the staff are certainly my HEROES!

Stay healthy and safe during these uncertain times.

Sincerely,

USN Veteran
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM

Past Commanders Club Re-dedication
PDC Chuck Cooney, Steve DuBois, PDC Wayne Jensen, Department Commander David Wischer, PDC Leo Endres, Jim Hying

The Hounds keeping attendees dancing and entertained!

NEC Bob Shappell wins the 50/50 drawing!

Department Commander Wischer and Veterans Service Representative Mitch Woytych doing their part to keep things light during Celebration of Freedom 2020.

The Hounds keeping attendees dancing and entertained!

POW/MIA Silent March led by 2nd District

Chris Szebeni of Road Trip performing a beautiful tribute to those lost on 9/11.

Adjutant Gear with his National Guard Retirement plaque.

Raising of the American flag by Portage Fire Department.
I was in the Army Corps Of Engineers from 1964 to 1967. After my first 16 weeks of training, I was assigned to Camp Eiler 76 Eng. Battalion Construction, in Korea. I was assigned a bulldozer as was another new guy who I found out was from the neighboring state of Minnesota, me being from Wisconsin. We were in the same barracks and became best friends. John Washburn is his name. We were on the same job together and spent a lot of time in the NCO club or in town.

Thirteen months passed and we both were assigned back to Ft. Leonard Wood. John left three days before me. John was at a combat engineer group and I changed my MOS to equipment repair due to lack of assignments for bulldozer operators. Our barracks were close so we still were in contact with each other. John left service a week before I did and we said we’d try to keep in touch with each other.

As years went by I often said to myself, “I should try to contact John,” but work and family kept me from doing so. In 2017, fifty years after leaving service, I was at the computer and punched in John’s name and town he lived in and came up with a phone number. He lived in a small town so I figured it had to be him. I called immediately and asked if it was the John from 76 Eng in Korea and he said yes. Then I asked if he remembered his friend Pat Barwick because it was me. He said yes with excitement. He was somewhat shocked and asked how I got his phone number. I told him the computer has all his information, and being from a very small town, there can only be one John Washburn.

We talked for about two hours and I asked him if he and his wife would like to get together to reminisce. He agreed with enthusiasm. Since he lives about three hours from my cabin up in northern Wisconsin we agreed to meet at a Riverfront Restaurant. My wife and I were seated close to the front door. John and his wife came in and were looking around for us. He finally pointed at me and asked if it was me. After 50 years we changed. We did not look the same as army time. John with gray hair and a beard, me with a bald head and 4 in. moustache.

We introduced our wives, got caught up on our lives, and looked at our pictures from Korea. It was four hours of outstanding old times. I set up three close friends to apply for the Honor Flight and asked John to join us. The five of us were in process to be assigned but the Covid 19 halted everything.

We recently got together again at my cabin. Had a great dinner and tried to remember others from our company and the past that we forgot.

Fifty years separated us but we have renewed our friendship and will keep in contact for the duration of our time. God bless the U.S.A and good friends.

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BARWICK REUNION

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS AMID COVID

The Year 2020 will go down in the history books with a multi-varied, unprecedented, bizarre story, to be sure. If your household looks anything like mine; every rule, routine, and ritual has been revamped, restructured, or replaced. The beauty of the American Spirit is perseverance – we get er done, no matter what! Holiday traditions this year include COVID safety measures, but still have the very beating heart of the holiday – you!

Holiday traditions center around you, your family and friends. Zoom, Skype, Messenger, Teams, WebEx, or whatever platform to connect with out of town family and friends. At home, use the safety precautions as you amplify your indoor entertainment and activities. With Jack Frost around the corner and as we find ourselves indoors more and more, find ways to safely entertain or provide traditional activities. Bobbing for apples is still possible! Everyone brings their Tupperware and apple and sets the contest up in the NCO club or in town. Family Thanksgiving football games are still possible! Every year in the NCO club or in town.

Families are reconnecting in different ways through this time of reduced or postponed activity. Traditional family dinners, calling on neighbors, game night, sporting, volunteering, gardening, learning new skills/instruments, and crafting has become as popular as they typically do in the months and years immediately following a disaster, conflict, or loss event. Nothing can replace you and your time spent with family and friends, do it safely and frequently as possible.

As you prepare for your most-held holiday traditions, consider using your new card making skills, give a clarinet impromptu, teach the chicken dance to your grandkids, wrap-up your latest ceramic masterpiece, or coolest sand painting to give to your loved ones instead of another crock of peanut butter. But, above all else, do NOT forget your food traditions – sour cream Christmas cookies after Christmas Eve Service at grandma’s house will NOT be skipped this year!

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CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please submit candidate announcements with photo to badger@wilegion.org for 2021 elections.

Submission deadlines are:
December/January edition
November 11

February/March edition
January 20

Please note: If a candidate announcement was submitted for 2020 it may be resubmitted for the 2021 election.
PATRIOTISM AND PURPOSE WINNERS

Category A – Joseph Turk, parents are Scott and Suzette Turk – Merrillan, WI

Category B – Caleb Lyman, Guardian – Kathy Larson – Portage, WI

Category C – Madelynn Macholl, Parent – Rebecca Macholl – Phillips, WI

Category D – Isabelle Steffenhagen, Parent – Jackie Steffenhagen – Poynette, WI

Category E – Shane Larson, Parent – Shannon Larson – Clear Lake, WI

Poem by Charles Jamison

I've been calling on this Legionnaire for 5 years and in these late years of his life and he has started writing poems. He's been in a nursing home for over 4 years. His name is Charles Jamison and he served in the US Army August 1966 to June 1968. Charles was in Vietnam March 22, 1967 to March 22, 1968. He was on guard duty the night the Tet Offensive started. Following is his latest poem.

Chuck is a member of Post 42 in Platteville as I am. He became a member of our post shortly after we met. I was doing volunteer work for Hospice at the time. I am a 49-year member of The American Legion and am very proud to have met Chuck and help him through his trying times. Prior to Covid-19 we were able to be out and about a great deal. Doing volunteer work for Hospice is one thing I would encourage more veterans to do.

Submitted by – Stanley W. Erlandson

Once again the meaning is clear That autumn is here and winter is near.
From the trees the leaves will fall, Wild geese are flying South ahead of winter cold
Squirrels will be hiding nuts as they fall, Animals will hibernate ahead of winter cold.
Open your eyes and you will see autumn is here and winter is near.

-Charles Jamison

Support veterans and their families by purchasing VET JAVA

10 oz. Ground Coffee
15% of proceeds directly support Legion Wisconsin and when you use
PROMO CODE: LEGIONWI
15% is a saving back to you!

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VETERAN SUPPORT IN EVERY CUP
“FORWARD TOGETHER” MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVES 2020-2021

Department Commander David Wischer would like to present his 2020-21 membership incentives. This incentive is a little bit different—This a Post incentive (for post improvements, community giving, etc.) The Post must use it for something of that nature.

THERE WILL BE THREE WINNERS:
1st Place: The post that exceeds the highest percent of goal 30 days before convention.
2nd Place: The Post that exceeds membership goal by the highest actual number of members.
3rd Place: Most improved Post (Current year % compared to Last year %)

1st Place-$2,000
2nd Place -$1000
3rd Place-$500

The post must provide the following:
• A CPR filled out and returned to HQ by 6/1/2021
• Must have at least 3 brand new members (which means either new or last paid year of 2019)
• A CIP-R (Capitol Improvement Project -Request Form) explaining what the money will go for.

Lincoln Pilgrimage- (If this still Happens)
All Post’s that reach 100% of their goal by December 31, 2020 will be in a drawing held, January 4th, 2021. (The winning Post Commander can go or pick someone form his post to go). The winner will be the Department Commander’s guest at the Lincoln Pilgrimage in February. (Details to follow.)

DISTRICT COMMANDER INCENTIVE
The First District Commander that reaches 100% of their membership goal 30 days before convention will be awarded a Full Complete 3pc Coin Set.

ABOUT EMBEZZLEMENT
Far too many times we have heard “Everyone knew and trusted old Joe, we trusted him as Finance Officer for eleven years!” Embezzlement is defined as “fraudulently appropriating property or finances by a person or persons to whom such property was entrusted.” The fact is, of course Old Joe was trusted, that is why he was elected or appointed to a position of trust to start with. Personal debt, “a one-time loan” with intent to repay the money, gambling or other addiction are common reasons a trusted individual gives for their embezzlement of funds from the local Post, County or District. Eighteen months is the average length of an embezzlement occurrence with 1/3 lasting two years. Many of these occurrences go unreported because the Post wants to spare the Post from the embarrassment and negative publicity, or to give the culprit a “second chance.” You do not trust the fox a second time after he has already been in the hen house!

Preventative measures any non-profit can take to limit or prevent would be embezzlers: 1) Require two signatures on all checks. 2) Never pre-sign checks as a convenience to the other signatory. 3) Regular independent audits of all finances, including reconciliation of bank statements with receipts should be done. 4) A monthly verbal finance report is not an audit! 5) Do not become complacent! 6) Obtain bonding for those with access to property and finances – it is not expensive and often varies depending on the amount of assets. A Finance Officer who objects to an audit or finance reports that are never ready at the meeting, bank statements never available to examine by membership or other Officers, these are all red flags and should concern your membership! Vague reports, lost receipts or someone else still has those receipts, red flag!

I strongly encourage you to take this article to your next meeting and have a thorough and transparent discussion. Safeguard your Post finances and avoid the embarrassment within your community that stems from these types of crimes. What are the internal controls to safeguard your hard-earned finances? Find out! Create policy to limit risk. Any Finance Officer should welcome such policy to protect his or herself from accusations or rumors of wrongdoing. Do not be the Post we can read about almost weekly from around the country where “Old Joe” abandoned hundreds, thousands or even tens of thousand of dollars! A small Post with 23 members is just as susceptible as a large Post with 500 members. Donors do not remember it was “Old Joe;” they remember it was The American Legion. Regaining their trust over something that was so easily preventable can take years. You cannot afford not to have this discussion!

In closing, I want to be clear, 99% of our Finance Officers are some of the hardest working and most dedicated individuals in our organization. To them I say thank you for all you do, and you are appreciated so very much!

Stay safe and continue to march!

Department Vice Commander
Paul Beseler

THE WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION, INC.
2390 American Legion Drive • PO Box 827 • Portage, WI 53901
Office (608) 745-1090 • Email: finance@wilegion.org • Website: wilegionfoundation.org

DONATION FORM

Donor Information

Name __________________________ First __________________________ Last __________________________
Address __________________________ First Mil Last __________________________
City __________________________ State __________________________ Zip Code __________________________
Business Name __________________________
Email Address __________________________
Cell Phone __________________________ Home Phone __________________________

Donation Description

Check One: □ Cash/Credit □ Product/Item □ Volunteer/Service □ Other
Amount $ __________________________ Date __________________________

Credit/Debit Card # __________________________
Exp. Date __________________________ Security Code __________________________

Notes/Item Description __________________________

The American Legion Foundation is a 501c (3) non-profit corporation as defined under the IRS Code. Our EIN is 26-1582528. No goods or services were received in consideration for your contribution, your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Donation Opportunities

General Donation $ __________
American Legion Baseball $ __________
Badger Boys State $ __________
Camp American Legion $ __________
Celebration of Freedom $ __________
Homeless Veterans $ __________
Hospitals, Clinics, Veterans Homes $ __________
(Please Specify) __________________________

Oratorical $ __________
Shooting Sports $ __________
Sons of The American Legion $ __________
Troop & Family Support $ __________
Veterans Service Office $ __________
Wisconsin American Legion Law $ __________
Enforcement Academy (WALLECA) $ __________
Other: (Specify) __________________________

EAT

WHAT IF... THIS WERE YOU?

Learn How the Legionnaire Emergency Assistance Plus® (EA+) Helps You Handle Travel Emergencies.

Legionnaire EA+ steps in to help you with more than 20 emergency and medical services … to help you focus on your recovery and NOT on the costs (or even details like lining up second opinions or flying loved ones home).*

Plus, acting right away also helps lock in your Legionnaire members-only price.

Secure your EA+ protection right away, you’re guaranteed the same low price for a FULL year.

For more information log on to www.TheLIT.com/Emergency-Assistance-Plus or call toll-free 1-888-293-4008 today to speak with a representative.

*This is only an outline of the plans services. Please review your Member Guide carefully.

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The Last Bugle

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V- Vietnam
K- Korea
I- World War I
II- World War II
G/L- Grenada/ Lebanon
P- Panama
PG- Persian Gulf
The holiday season is fast approaching. Where did 2020 go? I feel like the entire year has been focused on the pandemic and the world’s response or lack thereof. As we now turn our attention to the impending holidays, I would like to share the achievements of a unit recognized for their efforts to publicize the service of local veterans.

James P. and Michael Sullivan Unit 383 of Lone Rock found a way to recognize the sacrifices of local veterans. In addition to the service member’s photo and ALA emblem, each banner featured the service member’s name, period and branch of service, and sponsor names against a patriotic background. The banners were hung by the village public works employees on poles throughout town and remained on display from Memorial Day through Veterans Day. The first banners were purchased by individual ALA unit members to honor veterans in their family. Subsequent banners were purchased by members of the community not affiliated with the ALA.

The unit’s social media pages included graphics similar to the banners and were accompanied by personal stories about each veteran. Local newspapers also reported on this project. What a great way to recognize and honor our veterans, living or deceased! As I read other annual unit reports, I saw another unit was developing a similar project. Way to go!

This reminds me of a poem our students sometimes read at our annual Veterans Day program. “I am a Veteran”, by Andrea Chris tensen Brett. In her poem, Ms. Brett points out that veterans can be found in all walks of life. They might be our next-door neighbor, the one that delivers our mail, our plumber, our barber, etc. Each veteran has a story, each as unique and important as the individuals themselves. As we prepare to celebrate the various upcoming holidays, please take time to reach out to the veterans in your community and thank them for the sacrifices they made for our freedoms. We may not know them all, but we owe them all. As we continue our centennial voyage, think about how you can honor the veterans in your life through your dedication to Service, not self.

Thank you, veterans!

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces. Thank you for serving this great country. Thank you for protecting us. Thank you for the security we have here at home. We know you sacrificed much for your country and all of us. And though you may no longer wear the uniform, we know you’re always on call to serve and protect the freedom and security of the United States of America. We invite everyone to pause: not only on Veterans Day but every day, to remember those who have fought for our freedoms. Thank you to all who have so bravely protected us.

American Legion Auxiliary
P.O. Box 140
Portage, WI 53901
alawi@amlegionauxwi.org
www.amlegionauxwi.org
**CHAPLAIN’S CORNER**

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

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”  
Galatians 5:23

Fall is upon us – ready or not. It is time for the harvest and the gathering of crops before winter comes. Is our fruit ripe for the harvest? Do we have an abundance of love, joy, peace, patience, concern for others, moral behavior, loyalty, trustworthiness, and meekness, humility, and self-control to gather and store for the next season?

This has been a trying growing season in many ways. Not only have there been physical challenges, but mental and emotional challenges like most of us have never faced before. We are reaping the benefits of our hard work, and the blessings we have celebrated over the past year and a half. The Spirit of God is moving in our lives. Amen

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

Although the 2020 National Convention was cancelled, Wisconsin was still recognized with several national awards. Please see the awards list on page A5 for details.

National Headquarters mailed the 2021 membership renewal notices in September. You may have received a renewal notice if you recently paid your dues. National pulled the mailing list in early August so things may have “crossed in the mail.” If you believe you received a notice in error, please contact your unit membership chairman to confirm your dues were forwarded to department headquarters for processing.

Members may pay their dues through their unit, online at www.ALAforVeterans.org, or over the phone. Online dues can only be processed for the 2021 membership year. You can pay for multiple family members at one time or pay for laid-off membership years if you pay by phone. Please call national headquarters at 317-560-4570, Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm (Central Time) to pay by phone.

The 2021 Daily Sweepstakes mailing was sent in early September. If you want additional entry forms, please call department headquarters. Only original entry forms will be accepted for the drawing. Daily prizes are $15, Sunday prizes are $25, and there is a chance to win $500 each month. Remember, you could win 365 times because winning entries are returned to the barrel after each drawing. The last day to enter is December 31, 2020. THANK YOU to everyone who already responded. Please remember that although a donation is not required to enter the sweepstakes, the money raised allows the American Legion Auxiliary to sponsor programs that benefit our veterans, the military, their families and our communities – so donations are greatly appreciated. Official sweepstakes rules are posted on the department website.

With elections coming up in November, members are reminded that the American Legion Family is non-political and should not disseminate partisan principles or promote the candidacy of any person seeking public office. While individuals have a right to their own political opinions, they should refrain from sharing them at any event associated with the American Legion Family or while wearing Legion Family attire, to avoid the misconception that their personal beliefs represent the organization.

The American Legion Auxiliary is holding an ‘ALA in the Know’ workshop at The American Legion’s Midwinter Conference on Saturday, January 16, 2020 at Ho-Chunk Casino and Conference Center in Baraboo.

**LEADERSHIP**

Kathy Baranzyk  
Dept. Chairman  
Ph: 414-628-0360  
Email: kbaranzyk@wizrr.com

I hope all is well with everyone. This past year activities have been put at a stand still because of the coronavirus. Unfortunately, my plans to conduct a Leadership Class at The American Legion Midwinter Conference fell through.

I am hoping this coronavirus slows down so my team and I can schedule some classes around the state. If you are interested, there’s a list of topics below to choose from. Please contact me if your Unit or District is interested in attending. I will then follow-up with you to set a tentative date and if we are able to start-up classes again, I will contact you to finalize everything. You can reach me by phone or email. Stay safe and hope to hear from you soon.

I’M A MEMBER, WHAT NEXT:

You will become familiar with the history of the ALA – its purpose, growth, development, mission and vision. New members will learn all about the ALA jargon, the structure of our organization and how to get involved. Seasoned members will have the opportunity to learn how to mentor and work with new members using positive communication to foster individual and group performance, learning how to get the most out of their membership.

**REPORTING-MAKING YOUR NUMBERS COUNT:**

You will learn how to make reporting fun. Participants will learn the reporting structure, what forms to use and how, when to use them and where to send them. Attendees will see how they fit into the big picture of our organization. New members have knowledge and understanding of the process and experience so members can achieve a greater effectiveness. Participants will learn how to utilize the Program Action Plans and apply for awards.

**HISTORY PROGRAM**

Dany Thompson  
Dept. Historian  
Email: alabgs.chairman@gmail.com

2020 has been a long, strange year for most us. We had to adjust a lot of the things we normally do – major events and long-time traditions had to be cancelled or adjusted. But the members of the American Legion Auxiliary have always risen to every challenge that is thrown at us, and this year and this pandemic are no different.

I have seen how units adjusted to meet the needs of their community and veterans in new and exciting ways. Some of you have gone virtual, and others have learned to do things while social distancing. However your unit has changed to continue the ALA mission, make sure you continue to work for the betterment of our veterans.

This will be a full-day session. Anyone registering for the Midwinter Conference is encouraged to attend the workshop.

We realize the COVID-19 pandemic caused many units to cancel their poppy distributions for 2020, but don’t forget that you can distribute poppies all year long – not just during the Memorial Day Holiday. The Veterans Day would be a great time to do a distribution. Units and posts interested in purchasing poppies for 2021 should submit their order by December 15, 2020. Don’t delay – order today! Due to the reduced need for poppies this year, the Poppy Shop will close and stop production as soon as we know we have enough poppies in inventory to fill the orders received by the deadline. Orders received after the new year may not be able to be processed.

If your unit does something unique to support the Auxiliary’s mission, please send pictures of the “mission in action” along with a brief description (100-150 words) so we can highlight it in the Wisconsin Legion Auxiliary’s “ALA in the Know” newsletter. Submissions should be sent to deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org within 60 days of the event, including a contact person’s name, daytime phone and email address in case we need to clarify any information. Your ideas may be of interest to others who would like to do something similar in their own community.

**GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS**

- **CHAPLAIN’S CORNER**
  Becky Mueller  
  Department Chaplain  
  Email: clarenceandbecky@aol.com  
  Ph: 920-833-6048

- **LEADERSHIP**
  Kathy Baranzyk  
  Dept. Chairman  
  Ph: 414-628-0360  
  Email: kbaranzyk@wizrr.com

- **HISTORY PROGRAM**
  Dany Thompson  
  Dept. Historian  
  Email: alabgs.chairman@gmail.com

During the Spanish Flu pandemic, in another 100 years members of your unit may want to see how you struggled, yet thrived in the time of COVID-19. It’s important to look to the past to see where we go in the future, but that doesn’t mean we forget to live in the here and now.

The Unit Histories may look a little different this coming spring, but that’s okay. All it does is affirm that we are about “Service, not self” and however that looks, we will always work for the betterment of our veterans.

**HOW TO RUN A MEETING & USES OF TECHNOLOGY:**

Attendees will learn how to develop and improve protocol in running a meeting. Participants will learn how to be knowledgeable, informed leaders about our organization’s websites – increasing knowledge and providing greater insight into our programs and available resources.

**CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND COMMUNICATION:**

We are all aware of conflict. No one likes to deal with it but at times it does make its way into our units. Participants in this program will learn how to foster a culture of goodwill within our organization, learn positive ways for dealing with stressful situations with difficult people, and how to solve the situation effectively with communication and leadership skills.

Department Leadership Team: Kathy Baranzyk, Bonnie Jakubczyk, Donna Jensen
Diane Weggen
Dept. Chairman
Ph: 920-573-1846
Email: djmgwege@gmail.com

The tradition of the memorial poppy can be traced to a single individual beginning in November 1918, Ms. Moina Michael, who bought a bouquet of poppies and handed them to businessmen where she worked. She asked them to wear the poppy as a tribute to the fallen of WWI. She later lobbied The American Legion to have veterans assemble poppies for distribution as a way of meeting their need for financial and occupational assistance. The poppy was made the official memorial flower of The American Legion in 1920 and The American Legion Auxiliary in 1921. The poppy program was made one of the Auxiliary’s national programs in 1924. We continue to follow that tradition, working the Poppy Program to honor veterans for their service and sacrifice by promoting circulation of the poppy, educating all people of the poppy’s history, and the significant financial benefit realized by our nation’s veterans as a result of its distribution.

Units are still encouraged to distribute poppies multiple times through the year. Invite all members of The American Legion Family to assist with distribution. Past methods of distribution may not work during a time of social distancing. Consider a drive-by poppy distribution at your Post. If local directives make poppy distributions too difficult, consider hosting an event after restrictions are lifted.

Poppy distribution is only the beginning. Units can sponsor a Poppy Poster Contest. Work with the art teachers at your local schools now and encourage them to enter the contest. Department contest winners were showcased in the last “Wisconsin” edition. Two of those talented artists, Courtney Peterson and Anna James, were later awarded First Place in their respective classes in the 2020 American Legion Auxiliary National Poppy Poster Contest. Unit 66 of Athelstan-Silver Cliff was the sponsor for these students. Congratulations to all the students who participated in the contest. Make sure you order plenty of poppies from Department prior to the December 15, 2020 deadline for displays at all your events, for poppy usage creations, and for distribution.

The 2020-2021 Poppy Program Action Plan and poppy information and work-sheets are available on the Department website (www.amlegionauxwi.org) or you can contact me for any information you may need to make your district, county or unit Poppy Program a success. Record all the good you are doing while promoting the ALA Poppy Program. I was excited to see all the pictures and newspaper clippings attached to your narrative mid-year and year-end reports and look forward to hearing from all of you again this year!

Bethany Fredericks
Department Chairman
Ph: 608-469-2875
Email: fredericks.bethany@gmail.com

If the COVID-19 pandemic has taught me anything, it’s how to be creative and flexible. Everything from how I teach my classes to how I coach my athletes has changed and there have been positive changes in each of those areas. That’s what we as an organization need to focus on; not what the pandemic has taken away, but how we can still persevere and promote our message in ways that may stretch what we once thought was impossible.

Harnessing the power of technology may prove to be helpful during this time. Units can use platforms like Zoom and Google Meets to conduct their business meetings. These platforms are easy to use, are free or inexpensive, and allow members to participate conveniently and safely. You can join meetings via computer or phone so there really is something for everyone! Now might also be a great time to consider creating a unit Facebook or Instagram page to promote the projects you are working on. They are easy to make and your audience can reach a large population of people. Check out the Public Relations Action Plan to see how!

Face coverings also allow you as a member to get the ALA brand out there without having to change anything in your routine! I purchased a set of three ALA Badger Girls State face coverings and wear them all the time! The first day I wore one to practice, I had no less than three athletes ask me about that program and it required no effort on my part other than giving my ‘elevator speech’ on the program and who to contact at school. Safety AND program promotion?! I can’t think of a better combination! You, too, can purchase ALABGS face coverings at www.shopwi-girlsstate.com.

As we continue to set our course into the future, don’t forget our W.H.Y. WHO we are. HOW we help our veterans and community. Your involvement and its importance to society! Please contact me if there is anything I can do to help your units.

Diane Weggen
Dept. Chairman
Ph: 715-644-2668
Email: dsweggen@gmail.com

Ahoy Maties, all hands on deck! With the beginning of the 2020-2021 Auxiliary year, jump on board, anchors away and let’s set a course to serve! ARRRRR…Deck Logs are due November 16, 2020.

Sometimes it’s the little or routine activities that make lasting impacts on veterans, military, their families and communities. The following Service to Veterans activities from the twelve districts could spark ideas for units and members in 2020-2021. (Mid-Year Unit Reports of Service to Veterans activities for the period of April 1 – Oct.31, 2020 are due to Diane Weggen by November 16, 2020.)

• DISTRICT 1 – Menominee Falls Unit 382 takes two “Road Trips” each year to another Post/Unit for an event, while Mukwonago Unit 375 and Post host Zablocki veterans five times a year for “Supper and Bingo.”

• DISTRICT 2 – Cambria Unit 401 members created a point of visiting and assisting a military family while Dad was overseas. Fredonia Unit 410 members created Christmas gift bags and worked with the local school to host a donation drive. Students helped fill and deliver the bags to Zablocki veterans.

• DISTRICT 3 – Lone Rock Unit 383 worked with local schools to make Valentines for local veterans and write letters to veterans on the Badger Honor Flight and Vets Roll. Blanchardville Unit 142 assisted the Post Commander with their Legion Post history. DISTRICT 4 – Milwaukee Unit 537 facilitated their Little Miss Poppy’s greeting of Honor Flight veterans and presented them with a poppy.

• DISTRICT 5 – Milwaukee Unit 1 volunteered more than 2,500 hours.

• DISTRICT 6 – Mt. Calvary Unit 454 and Saint Cloud Unit 478 worked together to make quilts for veterans at King. Oshkosh Unit 70 sent items each month to a different VA Center from the center’s wish list.

• DISTRICT 7 – Neillsville Unit 73 honors two or three veterans at a potluck dinner and program each month before their monthly meeting. Baraboo Unit 26 worked with a local restaurant (Pizza Ranch) to hold a successful fundraiser.

• DISTRICT 8 – Pittsville Unit 153 coordinated with local churches to honor veterans in their congregations for Veterans Day. Vesper Unit 520 sent notes of encouragement to a young man having difficulty in Basic Training.

• DISTRICT 9 – Seymour Unit 106 donated interactive robotic companions pets to King Veterans Home and visits Camp American Legion during Women’s Week wearing gifts for the veterans they meet. Abrams Unit 523 set up a large poster for Golf Scramble Fundraiser attendees to write a personal thank-you to active-duty soldiers (see picture).

• DISTRICT 10 – Chetek Unit 179 works closely with the Legion Post, VFW and AmVets throughout the year for veterans. Prescott Unit 61 sponsored a military family at Christmas.

• DISTRICT 11 – Filiel Unit 532 adopted four veterans remembering them on their birthdays, holidays and times in between with cards, a poppy or money for a cup of coffee.

• MERCER Unit 424 members worked with 9th grade AP history students to plant over 200 geraniums at the Mercer Cemetery.

• DISTRICT 12 – Webster Unit 96 sponsored a “Remember and Honor” tree where tributes were made “in honor” or “in remembrance” of a veteran from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. Milltown Unit 254 checked on the families of soldiers serving overseas to make sure they knew the Auxiliary could be called upon for help.

Bonnie Jakubezyk of Oak Creek Unit 434 earned the 15,000-hour bar for the highest accumulated volunteer hours this year. Linda Stolts of New Glarus Unit 141 and Barbara Bowen of Oak Creek Unit 434 earned 10,000-hour bars. “Very Well!” to District 2 with 70% of units reporting. There was a total of 98,624.9 hours reported for 2019-2020; 128 pins (first 50 hours) and 234 various hour bars were sent to units for 304 members.
VA&R – HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS GRANT FUND

Kathy Wollmer
Dept. Chairman
Email: k.wollmer@yahoo.com

The American Legion Auxiliary believes this outreach to women veterans is a “win-win” for all involved: creating an awareness for our members and communities of the military service of women veterans and an awareness by women veterans that they are appreciated and supported by the America Legion Auxiliary.

The Homeless Women Veterans (HWV) Grant Fund was established in 2010 under the leadership of Past Department President Florence Wasley by designating her “special project” to provide monetary assistance for women veterans who were homeless or at risk of being homeless.

In the last 10 years the HWV Grant Program has received more than $310,000 in donations from our members and friends. The Grant Fund has assisted 281 Wisconsin Women Veterans, preventing them from falling through the cracks of the VA System and having to sleep on the streets they fought to protect.

The following guidelines for receiving a grant from the fund are:
1. A Veterans Benefit Representative must complete the application and submit it to Auxiliary Department Headquarters along with a copy of the veteran’s DD214, a financial worksheet, and a narrative.
2. Grant can only be used for direct assistance of a homeless or at-risk of being homeless woman veteran and her immediate family, who has been a resident of Wisconsin for at least 30 days.
3. Veteran must be an honorably discharged woman veteran.
4. Veteran must be participating in the VA homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP).
5. Grant is for one-time only assistance.
6. Grants are paid directly to a vendor, supplier or landlord, not to the veteran. A committee comprised of the Department President, VA&R Chairman and Finance Chairman reviews all applications. The guidelines and application are available on the Department website: www.amlegionauxwi.org

THANK YOU to all who have donated and supported Wisconsin’s women veterans. As we move into the winter months, I anticipate an increase of requests for assistance and encourage your continued support of the Homeless Women Veterans Grant Fund. Please send your donations directly to Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary, P.O. Box 140, Portage, WI 53901 designated to “HWV Fund.”

HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS

Sue Hembrook
Dept. Chairman
Phone: 262-945-9791
Email: genesuehem@wi.rr.com

Our organization is very blessed to have so many members actively involved one-on-one with our veterans who reside or receive services at the VA hospitals and veterans homes. These volunteers are truly the front-line representatives of our organization and their compassion and dedication must be applauded. If you live near a veterans’ facility and wish to find out what is involved in becoming a volunteer, please contact the appointed representative or me. Volunteers serve in many capacities. To volunteer, you must attend an orientation at the facility and will most likely need to go through a background check. In partnership with the VA, the American Legion Auxiliary strives to keep our veterans as safe as possible and these checks are necessary to preserve the integrity of both our organizations and the volunteer personally. Facilities differ from place to place and therefore the needs differ. Surely you will find a niche that fits your personality.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

Diana Sirovina
Gift Shop Supervisor
Phone: 414-321-1479
Email: sirovina@att.net

Christmas is coming far sooner than we thought! Perhaps this year of changes has altered our perception of time. It doesn’t seem like it was that long ago when we delivered the last Christmas Gift Shop orders to our veterans so they had them in time to give to their families for Christmas. While there have been many changes to our lives these past months, one thing that will never change is our care and concern for our veterans. Like everything else, we have learned to adapt, be resourceful, and continue to work the mission of our great organization, even though we accomplish it may look somewhat different. Christmas Gift Shop is no exception.

These past months have been very difficult for our veterans in long-term care facilities. Without being able to have families visit, many of the veterans feel isolated and lonely. Staff at the various facilities have gone above and beyond to help our veterans through these unprecedented times. With Christmas Gift Shop, we can give these great veterans something else to focus on, even if for a brief time.

Like everything else, Christmas Gift Shop is going to look different this year. We will still offer the veterans a good choice of gifts to select for their families, but we will be doing it virtually this year. Details still need to be refined a bit, but we will continue our long-standing tradition of bringing holiday smiles to the faces of veterans’ families.

Since the veterans are unable to have family visits, it will be up to us to ship the gifts to them. This year, your donations will help with this project more than ever! The cost of gifts, wrapping and shipping are all fully funded by your donations. Please mail checks payable to “ALA-Wisconsin,” noting Christmas Gift Shop in the memo field, to ALA Headquarters, PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901. This program would not be possible without your generous funding. Thank you for supporting this program!
American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin received the following awards or acknowledgement for the 2019-2020 administrative year:

**AMERICANISM**
Americanism Essay Contest
Class V, Best Essay in Central Division
Alexis Faul
Sponsored by Fond du Lac Unit 75 ~ District 6

Americanism Essay Contest
Class VI, Best Essay in Central Division
Ben Nowak
Sponsored by Twin Lakes Unit 544 ~ District 1

**POPPY**
Poppy Poster Contest, Class VI
Best Poppy Poster in Central Division
Courtney Peterson
Sponsored by Athelstane/Silver Cliff Unit 66 ~ District 9

Poppy Poster Contest, Class VII
Best Poppy Poster in Central Division
Anna James
Sponsored by Athelstane/Silver Cliff Unit 66 ~ District 9

**VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION**
Volunteer Recruitment & Service Award
Largest Increase in Active Regularly Scheduled Volunteers & Volunteer Hours
Rose Wenger
Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital, Madison, WI

VAVS Meetings Perfect Attendance Card:
Rose Wenger, Hospital Representative
Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital, Madison, WI

Bonnie Jakuczyk, Hospital Representative
Zablocki VA Medical Center, Milwaukee, WI

Pat Flanders, Hospital Representative
Tomah VA Medical Center, Tomah, WI

Laura Hubert, Hospital Deputy
Tomah VA Medical Center, Tomah, WI

Jeanne Williams, Associate Deputy
Minneapolis VA Health Care System, Minneapolis, MN

Joyce Sporrer, Associate Representative
Oscar G. Johnson USVAMC, Iron Mountain, MI

Janet Mullard, Associate Deputy
Oscar G. Johnson USVAMC, Iron Mountain, MI

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**MISSION IN ACTION: UNIT 486**

American Legion Auxiliary S/Sgt Henry F. Gumm Unit 486 in Jackson made hats and prayer squares for Support the Troops WI, a non-profit organization that sends care packages to military service men and women stationed overseas. The unit project, coordinated by Pat Herbst and Mary Rogge, produced 69 hats and 76 prayer squares.

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**SEPTEMBER 2020 SWEETSTAKES WINNERS**

1 15.00 Jackie Mueller  Milwaukee
2 15.00 Rosemary Stalsberg  La Crosse
3 15.00 Ronda Fortun  Viola
4 15.00 Kevin Wegner  Grafton
5 15.00 Dorothy Peterson  Alma
6 25.00 James Knutson  Blanchardville
7 15.00 Keith Pozorski  Marathon
8 15.00 Tom Kahelski  Jackson
9 15.00 Darlene Heller  Almena
10 15.00 Jane Endres  Sparta
11 15.00 Lucia Radloff  Hustisford
12 15.00 Sue Hargraves  Madison
13 25.00 Lisa Lobermeier  Ashland
14 15.00 Mary Ann Lindner  Greenwood
15 15.00 Margaret Yonke  Howards Grove
16 15.00 Dustin Goetsch  Rothchild
17 15.00 Darlene Serene  River Falls
18 500.00 Pam Fromm  Marathon
19 15.00 Finley Larson  Muskego
20 25.00 Pat Anderson  Sun Prairie
21 15.00 Helen Traynor  River Falls
22 15.00 Terry Hayward  Camp Douglas
23 15.00 Sally Ollinger  West Bend
24 15.00 ALA Unit #454  Malone
25 15.00 Margie Taylor  Holmen
26 15.00 Lorraine Fleming  Menomonee Falls
27 25.00 Anita Patnode  Arkansaw
28 15.00 Stella Sedlar  Neshkoro
29 15.00 James Allen  Killeen TX
30 15.00 Nancy Winters  Reedsburg

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It was brought to our attention that the photo of Leah Reynolds (page A3 of the August issue of the Badger Legionnaire/ Wisconsin) was mistakenly listed as Leah Thompson. We sincerely apologize for the error.

**Celebration of Life**

A Celebration of Life has been scheduled in memory of Andrea Page for November 14, 2020 at West Salem Post 51 (148 Leonard St S, West Salem WI 54669). The time is tentatively scheduled from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. Questions? Please contact Patricia Smith at 608-786-4441.
“VIRTUAL BINGO”

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<tr>
<td>I Paid My 2021 ALA Dues (Unit #______)</td>
<td>I Voted !!!</td>
<td>I Display the American Flag</td>
<td>I Called or Visited an ALA Member (Name of Member)</td>
<td>I Have Been a Proud Member of the ALA for (Length of time)</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Completed an ALA Academy Course</td>
<td>I Attended an ALA Meeting (in person or virtual): (Name of Course) (Date of meeting)</td>
<td>I Donated to the ALA Foundation</td>
<td>I Distributed Poppies!</td>
<td>I Ordered Merchandise from Emblem Sales</td>
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<tr>
<td>FREEDOM ISN’T FREE SPACE</td>
<td>I Supported the Annual ALA Department Sweepstakes</td>
<td>I Wear ALA Apparel</td>
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<td>I Mentored: (Name of Member)</td>
<td>I Completed a Member Year-End Report</td>
<td>I Attended an ALA in the Know Session at: (Location)</td>
<td>I Recruited One New ALA Member: (Name of new member)</td>
<td>I follow the ALA Department Facebook Page</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Visited the ALA Department Website Regularly</td>
<td>I thanked a Veteran!</td>
<td>I Served as a Unit Officer or Chairman</td>
<td>I Prayed for Our Country</td>
<td>I joined the ALA to honor the service of my: (Relationship to Vet)</td>
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<td>I Volunteered at:</td>
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ALA “Virtual Bingo” Rules:

CIRCLE THE ITEMS YOU HAVE DONE.

If you have Bingo (four corners, two straight lines, or full card), mail your completed card to: ALA-Wisconsin, PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901-0140

Entries must be received no later than November 16, 2020 to be eligible to win.

(PRINT CLEARLY)

Name: ____________________ Unit #: _____
Addr: _______________________
City/State/Zip: _________________________________

One qualified entry from each category will be randomly selected and published in the next issue of the Wisconsin:

Four Corners: $10.00
Two Straight Lines (up, down or diagonal): $25.00
Full Card (blackout bingo): $50.00

JULY 2020 SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

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<td>Diane Curwen</td>
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<td>Julie Milz</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Joan Beck</td>
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<td>Mavis Stafslien</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>Nancy Hartwick</td>
<td>Beaver Dam</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Scot Sullivan</td>
<td>Loveland CO</td>
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<td>Carol Seefeldt</td>
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<td>Donna Willfahrt</td>
<td>Sheboygan Falls</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Elaine Krause</td>
<td>Fredonia</td>
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<td>Patricia Lampert</td>
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<td>Vicki Schultz</td>
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<td>Karen Maier</td>
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<td>Mary Seibel</td>
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<td>Oconomowoc</td>
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<td>Pamela Rothwell</td>
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<td>Amber Hubing</td>
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<td>Kim Wenzel</td>
<td>Menomonee Falls</td>
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<td>25</td>
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AUGUST 2020 SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

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