



"For God & Country"

# Badger Legionnaire



March 7, 2019  
Vol. 96, No. 2

## & "Wisconsin"

Official Publications of The  
Wisconsin American Legion Family

www.wilegion.org

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

## Korean Vet Wins \$20,000 Midwinter Sweepstakes

Oorah! Robert "Bob" Boulden, a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran, took home the top sweepstakes prize of \$20,000 drawn at the Midwinter Conference in January. He is a lifetime, 64 continuous year member of The American Legion and calls Post 79 of Burlington his home. He runs the Burlington rifle squad for military funerals and shares his story at local schools. Boulden said, "I am humbled to win. I always sent back my sweepstakes considering it a donation."

A U.S. Marine Corps Veteran, Boulden served during the Korean War, surviving the bitter cold battle at the Chosin Reservoir. He appears in the 2016 Netflix documenta-

ry, "American Experience: Battle of Chosin." When asked about the documentary he said, "I wanted to let people know what really happened. In 18 days we lost 900 Marines and 2,000 Army brothers. It was so cold that your eyelids would freeze shut if you didn't keep blinking." History books describe that a cold front from Siberia descended over the Chosin Reservoir, causing the temperature to plunge to estimates as low as -36 degrees Fahrenheit.

Boulden had just turned 21 when he was sent to Hagaru-ri. He joined the Marines when he was 18 after his father refused to allow him to join at 17. Boulden traveled with a small box camera and

documented his experience in Hell Fire Alley and the trek out of North Korea.

Boulden and his wife Lenore, who passed away in 2016, have four children: Rick, Randy, Barbara Dowty and Debra Schmieden. Barbara and Bob's grandson Charles joined him at Headquarters as he accepted his check, toured the museum and shared his WHY on the WHY Wall. Boulden joined The American Legion right away after being invited to his local Post. He is also a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Marine Corps League, Disabled American Veterans, and the Korean War Veterans Association.



Boulden  
October 20, 1948



Top Right: Robert Boulden, pictured with grandson Charles Dowty and daughter Barbara Dowty, accepts his \$20,000 Sweepstakes prize at Legion Headquarters. Bottom Left to Right: Hagaru-ri, Chosin Reservoir East Hill November 28, 1950. Boulden shares his WHY.



### 2019 DEPARTMENT MEETING DATES AND HOLIDAYS

March 3	Navy Reserve Birthday
March 4	Hug a GI Day
March 5	Seabee Birthday
March 13	K9 Veterans Day
March 15	The American Legion turns 100
March 16	March Madness Open House, WI Headquarters
March 25	National Medal of Honor Day
March 29	National Vietnam War Veterans Day
April	Month of the Military Child
April 1-12	Americanism & Gov't Scholarship Test
April 5	Gold Star Spouses Day
April 5-7	National Oratorical Finals, Indianapolis
April 14	Air Force Reserve Birthday
April 23	Army Reserve Birthday
April 30	National Military Brats Day
May 8-9	National Spring Meetings, Indianapolis
May 10-11	Dept. Spring Meetings, Portage
May 11	Commander Frank's Testimonial Dinner, Portage
May 27	Memorial Day

## MARCH MADNESS OPEN HOUSE



MARCH 16, 2019  
9AM - NOON



**DRAWINGS RAFFLES REFRESHMENTS • LEARN ABOUT MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS  
EXPLORE OUR RESOURCE CENTER & MUSEUM • VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER ONSITE  
KIDS CAN PARTICIPATE IN CARDS FOR VETERANS!**

Join us at The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin Headquarters in Portage, Wisconsin (2930 American Legion Drive)! Celebrate the March Madness Membership Challenge and the culmination of the National Commander's Buddy Check week. WIN!

- Post with the highest number of renewals from 2/14-3/14/19: \$50
- Champion District Commander renewals from 2/14-3/14/19: \$100
- Person with most transfers during Open House: \$ Mystery

Onsite resources include access to 2930 & expired listings, along with instruction on how to use myLegion.org to obtain valuable information. **Event is open to the public!**

## THE AMERICAN LEGION



## FOUR PILLARS OF SERVICE

VETERANS

DEFENSE

AMERICANISM

YOUTH

VETERANS  
AFFAIRS &  
REHABILITATION

NATIONAL  
SECURITY

Established  
1919

AMERICANISM

CHILDREN  
& YOUTH

## “Badger Legionnaire” & “Wisconsin”

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## “Badger Legionnaire”

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2930 American Legion Drive  
P.O. Box 388 • Portage, WI 53901  
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### Marie Steffen, Executive Editor

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**Joan Salle, Vice Chairman**  
**Greg Eirich, DEC Liaison**  
**Linda Pfeiffer**  
**Jennifer Rumbold**  
**Mike Feirer**  
**Angie Chappell, Assigned Staff Member**  
**Bonnie Dorniack, Auxiliary Member**

### 2018-19 Department Officers

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**Frank Kostka**  
Department Vice Commanders  
**Dave Wischer**  
**John Miller**  
**Ken Schoolcraft**  
**Clarence Davister**

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Department Chaplain  
**Mathew Harn**

Assistant Chaplain  
**Todd Fanta**

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**Jeremy Nordie** **Kendel Feilen**

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Alternate NECman - **Dale Oatman**

Judge Advocate - **Nicholas Lange**

Department Historian, **Jeff Antczak**

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- 1st – **David Latimer**
- 2nd – **Greg Eirich**
- 3rd – **Keith Lovell**
- 4th – **Raymond Pasbrig**
- 5th – **Craig Ellis**
- 6th – **Jerry Lauby**
- 7th – **David Hale**
- 8th – **Ronald Fregien**
- 9th – **Jeffery Zwiers**
- 10th – **Paul Beseler**
- 11th – **Lowell Liberty**
- 12th – **Donald Slattery**

### Change of Address & Other Information:

Subscribers: To report any upcoming changes of address, please ask your Post Adjutant to fill out a Membership Data Form and forward it to Wisconsin American Legion Headquarters. The change of address form that will be completed by the Post Adjutant should not be confused with the change of address card filled out at the Post Office. Department financial statements are available to Legionnaires in good standing upon written request through their District Commanders.

## “Wisconsin”

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

**Bonnie Dorniack, Editor**  
**Char Kiesling, Department President**  
**Bonnie Dorniack, Exec. Secretary/Treasurer**

To change your address: Notify Unit Secretary  
Unit Secretary: Notify Department  
Headquarters on a Member Data Form

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

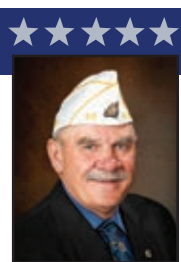
## Publication Schedule

All articles due to the Editor four weeks  
before publication date. Send all copy to  
badger@wilegion.org

## ★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ★ ★ ★

### LEGION PROUD

*Proud of the impact the American Legion Family, the Four Pillars and Programs have on the lives of Veterans, their Families and their Communities!*



**Frank Kostka**  
Department Commander

If you didn't attend our Midwinter Conference, you missed a great event. We had record attendance at the Conference, training classes and banquet. I've always been impressed with the Legion comradery displayed during this Conference in the common areas between classes and meetings. This was the first time we had a headliner singer, Josh Gracin, providing live entertainment. It was especially rewarding to see most of the members attending the Saturday Banquet and others that came in afterwards, dancing and enjoying the country music by Josh. After the concert Josh mingled and posed for pictures with our Legion members. We found out he was not a Legion member

and rectified that by recruiting him into our Department. I hope we can have other new ideas for our upcoming Department Convention to increase attendance.

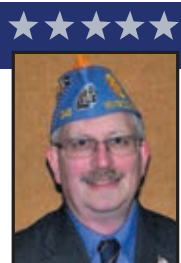
I just finished touring Tomah VA Hospital which completes visiting the five VA Hospitals and three nursing homes servicing our Veterans in Wisconsin. It was so rewarding to see the construction and equipment improvements at the facilities. I was also very impressed with the dedication of staff members and enthusiasm of our Legion Family Members, volunteering their time to make the veterans' stay as enjoyable as possible. Thank You to the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members for dedicating part of your life and sometimes your own money to put a smile on our fellow Veterans' faces. I know

you don't volunteer for accolades, but from your Department we give you a Big “THANK YOU”. You make us so PROUD as you represent the American Legion Family to interface in these veterans' lives. If you live near one of the VA facilities, or even a nursing home in your area, please consider volunteering or visit a Veteran, to let them know they are appreciated and not forgotten.

Our National Commander Brett Riestad has identified Mar 11-18 as Buddy Check week. What a great reminder, we should be communicating with our members that we haven't seen in a while or maybe have never even met. They need to know we value and appreciate their Military Service and membership in The American Legion. We're still well behind in membership so our

Membership Committee developed the March Madness competition from Feb 14 – Mar 14. The Districts compete in membership renewals to see who is Top Dog and win a cash prize. Every Post must do their part in renewing your members and get them turned in to meet the March 14 deadline to make your District competitive. Remember Membership is not just a numbers game, it's about what our organization can do with available resources. In order to maintain our existing programs, we must maintain our membership, which in turn provides the funds necessary to sustain our Organization and what we do. Bottom line is, we need your help, talk to that member that hasn't renewed yet and emphasize the value of their membership.

## ★ ★ ★ SAL DETACHMENT ADJUTANT ★ ★ ★



**David Faust**  
SAL Detachment Adjutant

Why? You are often hearing the question: What's your Why? Why do you belong to the Legion Family? For myself, it is the influence of my father, a WWII Marine veteran. It was seeing both the pride he had in his own service, and the deep emotions when remembering those who gave everything. Growing up in a family of veterans I learned about the sacrifice of all who serve. I saw their selfless devotion to each other, their families, and their communities. I needed to find a way to give

something back. A way to show my appreciation. That came with my membership in the Sons of The American Legion. But, try as I might to repay those who served, I find that when I associate with veterans, they are still giving me more than I can ever hope for.

The Legion Family represents to me all that is good about the uniqueness of American exceptionalism. I meet men and women from all walks of life, from all races, ethnicities and creeds, from all economic stations, from all educational levels, and from all vocations, all united around love of country, their families and communities, and love for each other. I see

spirited debates at meetings and contested elections, followed by comradery afterwards. I marvel at it.

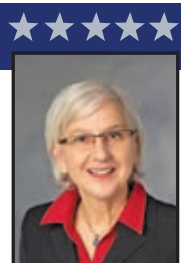
I sincerely hope that any of my fellow S.A.L. members reading this, feel some of the same, if even in a small measure. If you do, then I am happy you are so blessed, and I ask two very small favors of you that will help us strengthen and grow, and continue to serve in our own way.

Who? First, help us stay connected with each other by signing up for our eNewsletter at [www.wisal.org/newsletters](http://www.wisal.org/newsletters). Second, if you are a Squadron officer, please make sure the information we have for you is

current by going to [www.wisal.org/squadron-info](http://www.wisal.org/squadron-info).

What? As we are looking ahead, April is Children & Youth Month. Find some activities you can participate in at [www.wisal.org/programs/#ProgramsCalendar](http://www.wisal.org/programs/#ProgramsCalendar). As you work in your communities and serve the program of The American Legion, we want to know what you do. It is important to record your activities to preserve history, and to help tell our story. Soon, you will be asked to submit your annual consolidated squadron report ([www.wisal.org/consolidatedreport](http://www.wisal.org/consolidatedreport)). Please be sure connect with us so we can help you with this.

## ★ ★ ★ WDVA SECRETARY ★ ★ ★



**Mary M. Kolar**  
WDVA Secretary

Traveling across the state meeting with many of the veterans who we serve at the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, I'm struck and impressed with the diverse group of people we are.

As veterans, and especially here in Wisconsin, we've grown up in, served, and represented many unique cultures. Even when we share a particular ethnic background, we have had and have been impacted by the diversity of our individual experiences. This diversity helps make Wisconsin great. As leaders and public servants, it's up to us to work together with various groups like Wisconsin's American Legion and others. Let's expand our programs and initiatives to better serve and respect all.

During my first weeks at the WDVA, I had the pleasure of being on a tour of the Veterans Home at Union Grove along with Legion State Commander Frank Kostka and members of the Auxiliary. We were able to interact with staff and members who reside there. Following a brief by Union Grove Commandant Randy Nitschke, we had a lively discussion of what is working at the WDVA's homes and what needs to be improved. I particularly appreciated the insight of Auxiliary members who have worked in the medical field and those who are volunteering at the Homes.

We have to ensure every single veteran in our state has a voice and that their needs are being met. That goal is only attainable if we work together.

The vibrant veterans' community in Wisconsin already outweighs that of many states across the country. From the Tribal

Veteran Service Offices that work with veterans belonging to each of our state's 11 federally-recognized tribes, to our growing Women Veterans Program at the WDVA, to the hundreds of Veterans Service Organization chapters with thousands of members, Wisconsin's outreach to veterans continues to grow.

Working together with lawmakers and stakeholders within our veterans' community, it's important to always have our focus on the future. Together, we have to constantly be ready to learn and adapt. Consistent through our interactions is the respect and equal opportunity we afford to all people.

On his first official day in office, Governor Tony Evers reinforced our efforts. Through Executive Order No. 1, Governor Evers stated the need for us to collectively prohibit discrimination and harassment in state employment

against any class of people because of a variety of demographics. Most public companies already had similar policies in place, but we hadn't at the state level.

Governor Evers' second Executive Order called for state agencies to recognize the hard, diligent work of their employees. With more than 1,000 employees of all backgrounds making up our staff at the WDVA, each helping serve the more than 360,000 veterans in our state, we value the role they play and the contributions they make.

Now more than ever, we are going to work together to develop and put into place policies that ensure everyone is treated with the dignity our fellow human beings deserve.

Working with you, I look forward to continuing the development and implementation of plans that ensure everyone is treated fairly and our diversity is appreciated.



*"Surround yourself with good people and they will lift you up!"*

#### OUR MISSION

*Helping To Heal - those who served, continue to serve, and their families, through Wisconsin's Northwood's Experience*

#### OUR VISION

*Giving Wisconsin Veterans the pathway to quality of life*

#### OUR VALUES

*Honor and Stewardship*

*To learn more about the mission of Camp American Legion or to get involved with answering the call, visit [CampAmericanLegion.org](http://CampAmericanLegion.org) or find us on Facebook.*

# Growing the Legacy that is Camp American Legion

In the Heart of the American Legion Forest, on the edge of town, in Lake Tomahawk, WI, exists what is likely one of the best kept secrets in the Northwoods. It is known to thousands of Wisconsin Veterans as a place to heal and grow through adversity. Often, the stressors that accompany military service can inevitably create scars invisible to the outside world. Camp American Legion provides a safe place for Wisconsin Veterans and their families to come together along with others who have shared life experiences.

Our campus and facilities offer an abundance of opportunities to unwind, relax, and rejuvenate. With 22 fully equipped cabins, home cooked meals, daily fishing trips, and evening cruises watching the sunset over the water, our Veterans and their families can experience the healing nature that the Wisconsin Northwood's experience has to offer.

Since 1925, Camp American Legion has been operating and serving Wisconsin Veterans and their families. Our mission focuses on health and wellness through the Wisconsin Northwood's experiences. In large part, Camp is sustained by a volunteer force. It is in that spirit of giving and serving that grew the Legacy that is Camp American Legion. Throughout the last 90+ years, Camp has provided the highest level of service and we do it all free of charge for eligible Wisconsin Veterans and their families to include families of the fallen. Throughout the camp season there are special programs geared



to help Veterans and their families overcome challenges and reconnect with one another. "Help to heal" is not just something we say, it is why we are here.

Camp American Legion is a program of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin, which is a not-for-profit organization providing programs and services to Veterans, their families and communities. Operational and capital funding for Camp is supported by The American Legion Family and the generosity of individuals and organizations across the state of

Wisconsin.

When you choose to support the mission of Camp American Legion, you help Veterans and their families such as the Muller family (family of the fallen).

"There is something about this place that warms our hearts. We all share something in common and can openly talk to one another. Such a serene place to be. The staff at Camp American Legion are the Best. They are all very friendly. And.... they know how to cook well. That means so much to us. We look forward to coming back to

Camp American Legion. Tranquility! That explains Camp American Legion."

Getting Involved is Easy... And there is no better time than now.

Every spring we release our season "Wish List". These are items that we use daily in the service of our Veterans and their families. You can find the 2019 Wish List on our website, on our Facebook Page and on amazon.com, under Camp American Legion.

We also accept monetary donations. It is these donations that keep our operations running and our mission moving forward. This spring we will be kicking off our "Sponsor a Veteran" initiative. This new initiative will help provide funding for our Wisconsin veterans and their families to attend Camp and it is an easy way for community members across Wisconsin to be a part of the legacy that is Camp American Legion.

Another way to help is through "Planned Giving"...the use of a Donor Advised Fund (DAF). In simple terms, a donor family makes a significant contribution in one year to their DAF which provides them with a charitable deduction as the DAF is a non-profit public charity. Talk with your financial advisor about DAF funds and how this strategy may work for you.

We are Wisconsin Proud ~ We Are Legion Proud!

We look forward to another wonderful Camp season. Think Spring...

*-Don Grundy,  
Camp Director*

## What is your WHY?

**CAMP AMERICAN LEGION**  
"My why goes back to those with whom I have served. Those who served and were lost. My why is expressed in Camp. My why is in their memory. Their memories are in the trail and on the Memorial Wall. That is my why. Why I do what I do."

Mike Burt  
U.S. Army, Post 139 (Coloma)  
Chairman, Camp American Legion Committee

**CAMP AMERICAN LEGION**  
"My passion has been with the Legion and what we do for the veterans, their families and the community, but my biggest passion is with Camp American Legion. I'm a giver. I hate taking. The Legion is so good to me and the SAL - what they do with the Josh Dog is so important. I'm involved. They say I've got too many hats. I'm not done yet!"

Rich Ruland  
U.S. Air Force, Post 481 (Madison)

## DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN



Julie Muhle  
Membership Chair

It is getting to be that time of the year again when every post should be preparing to complete the year-end reports. Those reports are the Consolidate Post Report (CPR), Veterans Administration and Rehabilitation (VA&R) and Children & Youth (C&Y) reports. While we start an early campaign to remind posts to fill these out, the truth is that we typically only get about a 60% return rate on the VA&R and C&Y reports. We do better with the CPR reports but it is with much calling and follow ups.

Why are these reports so important? It is our way to explain to Congress how well we are doing as an organization. The three aforementioned reports are the way we communicate our successes. The reports start at the post level and are funneled to Department. Each Department compiles the information into a report and sends that report to National. National then creates a final version, inclusive of

all 55 Departments, and sends it to Congress. This shows the strength of the organization so when our National Commander goes before Congress and/or our President, each understand the force of the voice being carried by him or her. The American Legion has made a lot of strides to help make it easier for posts to complete these reports - especially the CPR. Here are some of those efforts:

- The Administrative Manual has a sheet for each month that can be filled out during the monthly membership meeting. This makes it easier to gather the information for completion at the end of the year. The Administrative Manual can be found online at [www.wilegion.org/Members/Post/County/District\\_Resources/Appendix\\_D](http://www.wilegion.org/Members/Post/County/District_Resources/Appendix_D) or many posts have a paper version in their post.
- If your post is a registered user of myLegion.org, on the left side there is a link to the online CPR. It can be filled out monthly and saved. At the end of the year, you just need to complete and click the submit button.
- If you aren't crazy about the sheets in the Administrative Man-

ual, create your own sheet to pass around during your monthly membership meetings that members fill out. Save the sheets for easier completion of the final report.

- Add some of the more difficult items to track to your monthly meeting agenda (blood donors, funeral honors, etc).

- Finally, create a sheet to add to your newsletter asking members to send back information. It can be once, closer to the end of the year or a couple of times during the year.

The Children and Youth form can also be found online at [www.wilegion.org/Members/Post/County/District\\_Resources/Appendix\\_F](http://www.wilegion.org/Members/Post/County/District_Resources/Appendix_F). Why is this form so important? Since our inception, The American Legion realized a need to care for and to protect our nation's most valuable resource - our children. In 1925, our National Child Welfare Division adopted the "whole child" plan. This provides that "the child of every veteran should have a home, health, education, character and opportunity," and is founded on three guiding principles:

1. To strengthen the family unit

against the forces of today's complex society.

2. To extend support to organizations and facilities providing services for children.

3. To maintain a well-rounded program that meets the needs of today's young people.

The form gives suggestions as to what you can do for Children and Youth activities. Remember that April is Children and Youth month! Are you having a function during this time? If so, consider donating to one of the charities listed. Maybe host a children's activity. At the end of the year, by June 1st, complete the form and send to Department. The Children and Youth Committee reviews these forms and gives out awards based on the information submitted. Not enough room? Attach more papers! What happens if you didn't do any Children and Youth activities? Fill out the top of the form and send to Department anyway. This way, we have accountability as to how many posts are actually aware of this effort and ones who are not submitting.

The VA&R form is located at [www.wilegion.org/Members/](http://www.wilegion.org/Members/)

Post/County/District\_Resources/Appendix A. It is the very last page. Why is this form so important? The information entered into this form allows the Department to tell a story. We can convert hours donated into a monetary number to show the value of the time donated. It explains the impact The American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion have for our service members, veterans, their families and the community. Again, even if your post doesn't do anything for VA&R, complete the top of the form and submit a null report to Department.

You can view the 2018 (and other year's) Annual Report online. Go to [www.legion.org/Media/Publications/2018\\_Annual\\_Report](http://www.legion.org/Media/Publications/2018_Annual_Report). This becomes a great recruiting tool when talking with potential new members.

Need help in completing any of the previously mentioned forms? Have any questions? Contact your friendly Department staff or myself.

*Julie Muhle  
Dept. Membership Chairman  
920-382-4028*

# Davis Wins State Oratorical Contest

Timothy Davis was named the winner of The Wisconsin American Legion State Oratorical Contest on February 9, 2019. Davis, the son of Matthew and Dana Davis, won the contest held at Ripon College. A senior at Maranatha Baptist High School in Watertown, Davis earned \$3,000 and will now compete for the \$18,000 top prize at the National contest in Indianapolis, Indiana, to be held April 5-7, 2019. To get to the State contest, Davis won contests at the Post, District and Regional levels.

Each contestant delivered a prepared oration as well as an oration on a randomly assigned constitutional topic. Davis impressed the judges with a speech titled, "Reclaiming Our Founding Document". He is sponsored by Watertown Post 189. This is Davis' second year competing. Post 189 Oratorical Chairman,

Ken Wzorek, originally shared the opportunity with Davis' speech teacher who then encouraged Davis and classmates to take part. Davis said, "I've always been patriotic and saw this as a cool learning opportunity." When asked how he decided on his topic Davis responded, "Upon hearing my speech, I want to leave people with a strong call to action." Future plans include attending Maranatha Baptist University to study Business Management.

Elijah Anumolu, a Homeschooled sophomore, placed second with his speech titled, "America's Hidden Treasure". He was sponsored by Milwaukee Post 331 and received \$2,500. Malik Staude, a senior at Oconomowoc High School, placed third, receiving \$2,000 for his speech, "The Constitutional Life". Oconomowoc Post 91 served as his sponsor.

District Oratorical winners, that advanced to Regional competition included:

- District 1:** Malik Staude, Oconomowoc, Post 91
- District 2:** Timothy Davis, Watertown, Post 189
- District 3:** Carter Faust, Madison, Post 501
- District 4:** Thomas Quigley, Milwaukee, Post 416 (Greendale)
- District 5:** Elijah Anumolu, Glendale, Post 331 (Milwaukee)
- District 6:** Jaelyn Stadler, Omro, Post 234
- District 7:** Tyler Klatt, Sparta, Post 100
- District 8:** No contestant
- District 9:** Zoe Plzak, Appleton, Post 38
- District 10:** Marshall Nelson, Arcadia, Post 17
- District 11:** No contestant
- District 12:** Mirabelle Vezina, Centuria, Post 143 (St. Croix Falls)



**Back:** Wisconsin Commander Frank Kostka , Past National Commander Denise Rohan **Front:** Malik Staude (3rd Place), Elijah Anumolu (2nd Place), Representative Jim Edming, Timothy Davis (1st Place), Representative Joan Ballweg, Robert Stone (Chairman State Oratorical), Senator Luther Olsen

Since 1938, The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program has encouraged the nation's high school students to study the U.S. Constitution and to hone their public speaking skills.

Nearly 6,000 youth from across the nation participate in the contest at the post, district and department level. For more information on how your post can participate visit [www.wilegion.org](http://www.wilegion.org).

## Kendel D. Feilen

### Candidate for Dept. Sergeant-at-Arms



Someone asked me at Midwinter if I was going to run again for Sgt-at-Arms. Since I had only completed one function, Fall Meetings, as the Department Sgt-at-Arms of my one-year term I replied, "Yes, I'd like to run for a full two-year term to get the maximum experience of service to the Department of Wisconsin." I'm a 28-year PUFL member and current Commander of Milwaukee Police Post 415 and I'm requesting your support in my candidacy for a full term as Department of Wisconsin Sergeant-at-Arms.

I retired from the Milwaukee Police Department as a street supervisor at the rank of Sergeant in 2002 after 27 years of service to my home town.

My privilege of membership in the American Legion was earned as a member of the Coast Guard Reserve and a deployment to Saudi Arabia in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, 1990-1991, with Port Security Unit 303. I was on duty as the Force

Protection Crisis Action Team Chief at USTRANSCOM on 9-11-2001 and was activated for two years thereafter. I retired in 2004 at the rank of Captain (O-6) after 26 years of service.

My service to the Department of Wisconsin consisted of duties as: 2009 Department Convention Committee, Milwaukee; 2010 National Convention Provost and Parade co-chair, Milwaukee; 2010-2012 Legislative Committee and Vice Chairman; 2012-2013 Department Historian; and 2013-2018 Communications Committee and Chairman. I've also served as a Judge at the Regional Oratorical contests and as Security Director at Badger Boys State.

Nationally, I served as Assistant Sgt-at-Arms at the National Conventions in 2011 at Minneapolis, 2013 at Houston and 2015 at Baltimore.

I look forward to serving a full two-year term as the Department of Wisconsin Sergeant-at-Arms and I thank you in advance for your vote.

## 85th Annual Pilgrimage

Commander Frank Kostka and Auxiliary President Char Kiesling took part in the 85th Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln, February 11-12, in Springfield, Illinois. Accompanying the Commander was DECman Bob Shappell and member winner, Post 392 Commander John Coon and wife Linda of Cecil, Wisconsin.



## Funds Raised for MIA Veteran Headstone

Bayard de Hart Post 13 in Richland Center is planning a local centennial celebration recognizing its temporary charter signing of July 21, 1919. As part of the day's events on Saturday July 27th, they are dedicating a granite headstone in their post flag park. Past Department Commander Ken Rynes, a member of the post, found out from one of their members that his Uncle Ralph Jackson was a MIA from the Korean War and did not have a grave or any kind of marker. Sgt. Ralph Verlin Jackson was listed MIA on November 30, 1950 during the battle of the Kunu-ri Gauntlet. As a MP, he and a small group were sent on a mission to rescue stranded soldiers and were never seen again. During a 12 day period in November and December of 1950, 60 of Wisconsin's 165 Korean War MIA's occurred.

The Post centennial committee is raising funds for the purchase of a headstone that will be placed amongst the over 300 flags at the post flag park. The family has submitted DNA to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. If Ralph's remains come home the headstone will



**SGT Ralph Verlin Jackson, U.S. Army, MIA**  
Richland Center H.S. 1948 Graduate

be moved to a cemetery of the family's choice. Until that time he will be memorialized in a fitting way at a fitting site. This is just one of many reasons "Why" we exist. To fix things that have fallen through the cracks of time no matter how or why it happened, but to just fix it.

Other events of the day include Kid's pedal pull and bounce houses, Motorcycle and UTV

poker runs, a 2 mile remembrance walk/run, euchre and corn hole tournaments, national guard static displays and climbing wall, post history picture boards, a dedication ceremony with cake cutting and headstone unveiling with local and state dignitaries. The evening concludes with Dr. Rumley's Snuff Band.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**\$26,000: American Legion National Emergency Fund grants distributed to individuals and posts affected by Hurricane Michael, the Camp Fire in California and a flood in Wisconsin.**



# THIS IS WHY WE DO, WHAT WE DO.

## American Legion Members Share Their Testimonials About Their WHY



100 years ago, a group of American Expeditionary Forces returning home from World War One envisioned a veteran's organization that would be built on strengthening the nation. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. stated at the St. Louis Caucus in May 1919, "We are gathered together for a very high purpose. I want every American through the length and breadth of this land to realize that there is not a man in this caucus who is seeking anything for himself personally, but that he is simply working for the good of the entire situation." Fast forward 100 years. Why is The American Legion relevant today? Why do we stand 50,000 members strong in Wisconsin? **Legion Family members share their WHY....**

### COMMUNITY

*"The reason for my why is veterans, community, organization and growth. As an organization we should be able to grow and improve and take care of our veterans. If we can take care of our veterans we can take care of our community. If we can take care of our community we can take care of ourselves and that's the reason that I, as a young veteran, have decided to join such an organization."*

**Luke Burnaman**  
U.S. Army, Post 329 Commander (Briggsville)

### PAY IT FORWARD

*"I remember a time this army family came around me and took care of me when I couldn't take care of myself. Ever since then I have felt like I owe them my life because they saved me and they saved my family and helped us through an extremely hard time. It brought me around to realize that those trials and losses that we deal with can make us better and I spent the rest of my life trying to give back and I will continue that. I believe that if we share our own personal why and we align it with our organization, this organization will live for eternity."*

**Don Grundy**  
U.S. Army, Camp American Legion Director  
Post 416 (Greendale)

### HONOR/REMEMBER

*"Diversity is the most important word in our country. The military gives us diversity. That's why we have survived to this day. My why is also the cemeteries and POW MIAs and the lives that they have sacrificed. We will always think of them - the men and women who served in the military and did not return."*

**Nellie DeBaker**  
U.S. Navy, Post 236 (Algoma)

### CAMARADERIE

*"I grew up in a military family. Dad was a B52 pilot and I joined the army. When it came time for me to leave the army I realized the biggest thing I was leaving behind was the community of camaraderie that I had in the army that just isn't available elsewhere. Then an opportunity came for me to be part of a Legion post and I found that community again. A few years later I saw a posting for a job position at National and I jumped on it because I really enjoy being part of something so much bigger than myself. We (The American Legion) do a lot of amazing things. I found the community and now I can be a part of the community that has given me so much."*

**Doug Chase**  
U.S. Army, Works at National Headquarters in Indianapolis

### AUXILIARY/HELPING OTHERS

*"I served in Vietnam. The reason I joined The American Legion is the Auxiliary. When I was sick with malaria and at the hospital in Milwaukee, the Auxiliary took good care of me."*

**Jim Chapin**  
U.S. Army, Post 143 (St. Croix Falls)

### FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT

*"My why is for people who cannot. My why is their why. I'm doing what they would want to do, because they can't do it. My why is theirs."*

**Leroy Miller**  
U.S. Army, Post 139 (Coloma)

### FAMILY SUPPORT/SAL

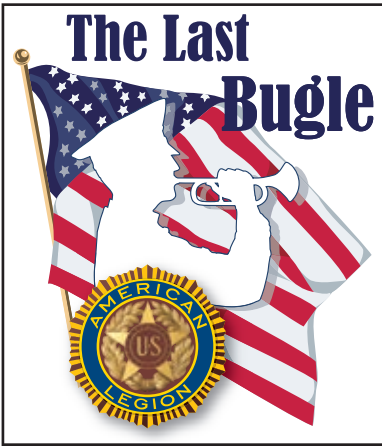
*"My father served in the U.S. Navy. That's how I got started in the Sons of The American Legion (SAL). My why? Five years ago Past Detachment Commander Dan Daily started the Josh Dog program. Now there are four giant Josh Dogs in Wisconsin. 1,200 (plush) Josh Dogs have been given to children of deployed service members in the past two years. This is my why. On Wisconsin!"*

**Chris Sherman**  
SAL Detachment Commander

My 'Why', so not  
another Veteran takes  
their Life!  
B.T.  
Post 38



To those  
with whom I've  
Served Living & PASSED  
My WHY  
is for all who  
can not WHY  
Today! Leroy Miller  
Post 139



<b>1 Germantown</b>		
Clarence Fritsche	II	1/14/19
<b>8 Waukesha</b>		
Rolf Bruhn	V	1/30/19
Paul Davies	II	2/2/19
Richard Larsen	V	3/31/18
<b>10 Wausau</b>		
Ralph Flory	K	1/11/19
Bernard Johns	K	11/29/18
<b>13 Richland Center</b>		
Harvey Ernst	V	2/14/19
<b>19 Hartford</b>		
Brian Ciriacks	V	1/17/19
<b>20 Waterford</b>		
Vito Colano	II	1/11/19
<b>27 South Milwaukee</b>		
Ronald Dathyn	V	2/1/19
<b>33 Neenah</b>		
Charles Osier	V	2/4/19
Roman Walbrun	K	1/25/19
<b>36 West Bend</b>		
Derry Wagner	II	2/7/19
<b>38 Appleton</b>		
Donald Page	K	12/1/18
<b>44 Wabeno</b>		
Robert Feiler	II	9/27/18
Donovan Hagen	V	2/21/19
<b>55 Hortonville</b>		
Howard Thern	K	2/16/19
<b>65 Rome</b>		
James Deneau	V	2/24/19
<b>72 Sturgeon Bay</b>		
Raymond Mattie	II	12/12/18
<b>77 Chippewa Falls</b>		
Elmer Bjork	K	12/10/18
Clifford Christenson	II	10/8/18
Lehman Larson	K	12/17/18
Kenneth Nauman	K	4/27/18
Donald Schindler	V	1/20/19
<b>82 Port Washington</b>		
Richard Berthiaume	K	1/13/19
John Kraemer	V	12/29/18
<b>89 Minocqua</b>		
William Crawford	V	1/14/19
<b>93 Tomahawk</b>		
Arnold Thone	V	1/29/19
<b>95 Delavan</b>		
John Reiff	V	2/19/19
<b>96 Webster</b>		
James Gatten	K	12/23/18
Paul Hinds	V	2/17/19
<b>106 Seymour</b>		
Russell Moeller	V	2/4/19
Richard VanRossum	V	7/6/18
<b>109 Lancaster</b>		
Joseph Friederick	K	2/2/19
John Walker	II	2/5/19
<b>117 Shawano</b>		
Reuben Schaezel	II	12/26/18
<b>121 River Falls</b>		
Alan Stewart	II	2/7/19
<b>125 Chilton</b>		
Raymond Hephner	II	1/24/19
<b>133 Camp Douglas</b>		
Ronald Kempf	V	1/8/18
Charles Konsitzke	PG	2/3/19
<b>142 Blanchardville</b>		
Robert Wiemiller	G/L	1/22/19
<b>143 St Croix Falls</b>		
Dominic Bryngelson	V	1/21/19
<b>146 Beaver Dam</b>		
Edward Beers	II	2/11/19

<b>157 Horicon</b>		
Lynn Columbia	V	1/31/19
Jerry Nelson	V	1/2/19
<b>161 King</b>		
Glendon Collins	K	2/5/19
Charles Krueger	K	2/11/19
Garth Morgan	II	2/14/19
Steven Skipchak	V	2/4/19
<b>166 Fort Atkinson</b>		
Laverne Amacher	K	11/26/18
William Andavis	V	10/24/18
Gerald Conner	K	11/8/18
Gailen Dorn	K	2/11/19
Marlyn Kempf	II	4/6/18
Karl Kube	K	9/23/18
Robert Novak	K	1/23/19
<b>167 Sauk City</b>		
William O'Brien	K	1/23/19
<b>171 Union Grove</b>		
Bernard Lamon	K	6/16/18
Howard Preston	V	5/18/18
Lawrence Sewell	K	1/17/19
Gerald Streit	V	4/12/18
Theodore Welch	V	2/17/19
Jay Wildfong	II	2/16/19
<b>175 Loyal</b>		
Robert Gregorich	K	1/7/19
Joseph Hildebrandt	V	5/18/18
William Horn	V	2/15/19
Steve Wehrman	P	
<b>179 Chetek</b>		
Jack Kreutz	K	1/28/19
Paul Lundmark	K	2/8/19
<b>180 Milwaukee</b>		
Sheridan Mattison	V	1/13/19
<b>182 Park Falls</b>		
Leonard Cain	V	1/23/19
Norman Miller	K	1/15/19
<b>183 Genoa City</b>		
Donald Holden	V	1/28/19
<b>191 Whitehall</b>		
Harold Tomter	II	1/30/19
<b>192 Franklin</b>		
Richard Cummisford	K	1/9/19
<b>200 Black River Falls</b>		
David Grimm	II	2/14/19
David Pfaff	V	1/27/19
Harold Severson	K	1/21/19
<b>204 Ellsworth</b>		
Donald Lamberg	II	1/30/19
Gary Stern	V	2/2/19
<b>208 Rio</b>		
Vera Dowdell	II	1/31/19
<b>209 Orfordville</b>		
Rodney Smith	II	1/30/19
<b>210 Waupun</b>		
Calvin Cooper	II	12/25/18
Byron Kamphuis	V	1/6/19
<b>216 Lodi</b>		
James Chizek	K	1/30/19
Vernon Neblock	K	
<b>233 Waterloo</b>		
Ronald Engler	K	1/20/19
<b>239 Tigerton</b>		
Bernard Jelinski	K	1/13/19
<b>243 Plymouth</b>		
Leroy Mahloch	II	1/26/19
<b>245 Cross Plains</b>		
Richard Brill	K/V	11/3/18
Carl Lochner	K	4/10/18
Norbert Statz	K	10/3/18
<b>261 Greenbush</b>		
Earl Luth	K	2/8/19
<b>272 Butternut</b>		
Donald Metz	II	2/9/19
<b>283 Suring</b>		
Joseph Fonferek	II	2/18/19
<b>300 Gillett</b>		
Robert Hicks	II	1/25/19
Gordon McMahon	K	1/6/19
<b>306 Green Lake</b>		
Danny Breivogel	K	1/12/19
Clarence LaMire	II	1/20/19
<b>312 Peshtigo</b>		
Alex Dudka	K	1/5/19
<b>319 Casco</b>		
Edward Delebreau	V	5/5/18
Frank Fameree	V	7/21/18
Gaylord Flavion	V	8/14/18

<b>329 Briggsville</b>		
Anthony Bell	V	2/10/19
Gordon Fabian	II	2/14/19
Kenneth Theisen	II	4/13/17
<b>333 Sun Prairie</b>		
Leroy Kreger	V	1/7/19
<b>342 Lena</b>		
Donald Graef	K	1/31/19
<b>346 Centuria</b>		
Don Rovney	K	11/30/18
<b>352 Cassville</b>		
Nilus Dalsin	V	12/20/18
<b>363 Denmark</b>		
Norman Hebel	K	11/11/18
Nicholes Metz	V	1/14/19
Gordon Peterson	II	2/16/19
<b>366 Princeton</b>		
Henry Hedberg	K	1/17/19
<b>376 Fall Creek</b>		
Robert Ziemann	II	2/8/19
<b>377 Elcho</b>		
Harvey Fasbender	K	2/13/19
<b>382 Menomonee Falls</b>		
Alice Wagner	II	2/10/19
<b>446 Steuben</b>		
James Gobin	K	1/23/19
<b>447 Viola</b>		
Pete Fisher	K	1/28/19
<b>449 Brookfield</b>		
Daniel Benson	II	2/10/19
James Kaiser	K	2/2/19
Raymond Koval	II	1/13/19
<b>452 Spirit</b>		
Donald Stelzer	K	2/2/19
<b>469 Marathon</b>		
Christie Bloom	II	2/9/19
<b>481 Madison</b>		
Dave Gartner	V	2/1/19
<b>483 Allenton</b>		
Robert Beine	V	2/15/19
Frank Feucht	V	1/19/19
<b>484 Glenbeulah</b>		
Wayne Shaffer	V	2/2/19
<b>488 New Berlin</b>		
Henry Krecklow	K	11/29/18
<b>490 Milwaukee</b>		
Vincent Evica	K	1/8/19
<b>494 Caledonia</b>		
John Mutter	K	12/13/16
<b>496 Sherwood</b>		
Gerald Stein	K	1/24/19
<b>501 Madison</b>		
Jesus Llamas	II	1/16/19
John Miller	V	1/13/19
<b>508 Wilton</b>		
Jerry Eckelberg	V	2/13/19
<b>518 Green Bay</b>		
Donald Bahrke	V	1/14/18
Ronald Ross	V	12/19/18
<b>521 Fox Lake</b>		
George Stelzer	V	2/7/19
<b>524 White Lake</b>		
Peter Beattie	G/L	9/3/18
Thomas Imoehl	K	9/12/18
William Keegan	II	11/3/18
James Labelle	V	9/11/18
David Lee	V	2/7/19

<b>537 Milwaukee</b>		
Richard O'Loughlin	G/L	1/17/19
Thomas Thompson	K	1/25/19
<b>547 Lublin</b>		
Robert Fritz	V	1/22/19
<b>553 Madison</b>		
William Burkhardt	II	1/22/19

<b>2930 Portage</b>		
Ronald Dunbar	V	12/3/17
Gerald Krause	V	1/10/19
Carlton Luedeke	II	1/3/19
Ronald Melichar	V	12/30/18
Mark Schommer	K	7/12/17
Roger Vick	V	1/12/19

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## Baseball Registration Ready

Brewers Spring Training is in full swing! This means if you have not already registered your American Legion Baseball Team, now is the time. Register your team online at [www.legion.org/baseball](http://www.legion.org/baseball). Registration deadline is May 15, 2019. The 2019 National Baseball Rule Book is posted on the Wisconsin American Legion



Baseball page ([www.wilegion.org](http://www.wilegion.org)) and on the National American Legion site. Questions regarding American Legion Baseball may be directed to Program Coordinator Marie Steffen via email, [marie@wilegion.org](mailto:marie@wilegion.org), or call 1-608-745-1090.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**81: Number of former American Legion Baseball players who will be in the Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, N.Y., following induction ceremonies on July 21. Four of the six newest honorees - Roy Halladay, Mike Mussina, Lee Smith and Harold Baines - made it to the Majors after playing Legion ball.**



## McNaughton Correctional Center Recognized

Whether it is helping to clear trees, paint or help with renovations in the off season, McNaughton Correctional Center staff are always willing to lend a helping hand to Camp American Legion. Camp Director Don Grundy, Department Adjutant Amber Nikolai and Programs Coordinator Sheri Hicks visited McNaughton Correctional Center and were given a tour by Superintendent Kosbab

of the Center's Woodshop, where beautiful furniture is all handmade by inmates at the facility. A wooden motorcycle rocker made at the woodshop was donated from the facility for the raffle held at Midwinter Conference in January to kick off Commander Kostka's Legacy 100 Ride. Proceeds will benefit the new The American Legion Family Cabin at Camp American Legion.



**Right: Camp American Legion Director Don Grundy, McNaughton Correctional Center Superintendent Brad Kosbab and Department Adjutant Amber Nikolai. Bottom: Wood motorcycle rocker donated by McNaughton Correctional Center.**



## 2019 SPRING CONFERENCES

DISTRICT	DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT
1 <sup>ST</sup>	May 5th	Brookfield	David Latimer (414) 940-3271
2 <sup>ND</sup>	April 27th	Horicon	Greg Eirich (920) 226-0951
3 <sup>RD</sup>	April 27th	Dodgeville	Keith Lovell (608) 445-2096
4 <sup>TH</sup>	May 15th	West Allis	Ray Pasbrig (262) 853-4929
5 <sup>TH</sup>	May 14th	Milwaukee	Craig Ellis (414) 313-1357
6 <sup>TH</sup>	April 28th	Two rivers	Jerry Lauby (920) 602-0577
7 <sup>TH</sup>	April 20th	Sparta	David Hale (608) 799-3536
8 <sup>TH</sup>	May 18th	Marshfield	Ron Fregien (715) 459-8571
9 <sup>TH</sup>	April 13th	Shiocton	Jeff Zwiers (920) 460-0678
10 <sup>TH</sup>	April 5-7	Osseo	Paul Beseler (608) 525-2669
11 <sup>TH</sup>	April 6th	Odahana	Ted Harvey (715) 339-6676
12 <sup>TH</sup>	June 1st	St. Croix Falls	Don Slattery (715) 558-1683
Department	May 10-11	Department Headquarters	Angie (608) 745-1090 ext. 211

### DID YOU KNOW?

**\$1,030,163: Amount in American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance cash grants disbursed in January 2019, a single-month record, most of which were delivered to active-duty junior enlisted members of the U.S. Coast Guardsmen with minor children at home who missed their mid-January paychecks due to the federal government shutdown. TFA grants assisted 3,160 minor children in the month of January.**



## WWII Veteran Celebrates Birthday: 100 Years



As The American Legion celebrates its 100th birthday, Darwin Wosepka celebrated his own turning of 100 on January 6. Members of Brunclik-Konop Post 540 in Haugen, Wisconsin, joined WWII veteran Wosepka for a special birthday celebration. Wosepka was a pole climber with the U.S. Army Signal Corps and he taught pole climbing at a camp in Illinois. Post Adjutant Jim Hill describes

Wosepka as one always ready to lend a hand. He was active in the Color Guard, attended all meetings, participated in County meetings and picnics and helped with many meat raffles. Post member Ken Nelson said that he loved to cook for post events. A few years ago the post helped contribute toward the Honor Flight for Wosepka and his son, Robin. Happy Birthday!

## Post 108 Helps Veteran's Family

Jeff Candler and his family were recently honored guests at Wiley Davis Post 108's Veterans Dinner and the Post's 100th Anniversary Celebration.

Candler, an Army Reserve member and Afghanistan veteran, was seriously injured in a HUMVEE accident during a training weekend back in Wisconsin. Due to his disabilities from the accident, he has not been able to drill or work at his job hanging dry wall. Candler and his family also run a small farm in the Clear Lake area.

American Legion Post 108 was contacted by the Polk County CVSO regarding Candler's need for assistance for his temporary disability and loss of income. The Clear Lake Legion Post, along with the local VFW were able to help the family by supplying wood for his wood burning furnace, hay and bedding for his livestock, and some food and cash vouchers for the family to help them through this difficult time.



**Back Row: Rodney Fall, Detachment No. 108 S.A.L. Commander; Dan Johnson, Post No. 108 Commander; Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Candler, Curly Danielson, Post No. 108 Adjutant. Front Row: Four of the Candler's Children**

IN THE SPOTLIGHT