

3rd DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER

THE INFORMER

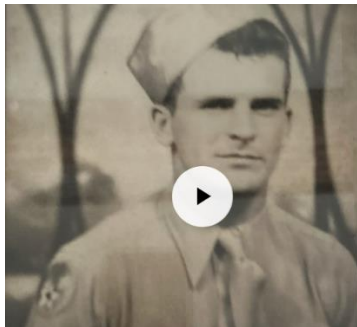
JUNE - 2024



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Comrades:

Each year on Memorial Day we take time to pay honor, remember and commemorate those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to allow us to have the freedoms we have today. The University of Wisconsin Missing In Action Recovery and Identification Project is researching our Wisconsin Missing In Action to bring closure for the family and friends.



Here is just one story of their success -

https://spectrumnews1.com/wi/milwaukee/news/2024/05/07/university-of-wisconsin-group-locates-remain-of-missing-world-war-ii-sgt-?cid=id-app15_m-share_s-web_cmp-app_launch_august2020_c-producer_posts_po-organic

The team is willing to come to any event to discuss their mission and their goal to bring our Wisconsin MIAs and KIAs home. Please reach out to the team at the UW if you would like to have them come to one of your events - MIA@biotech.wisc.edu. No Veteran left behind.

The American Legion has designated the 1st of every month as BeTheOne day. Wear BeTheOne gear, hold 2.2 mile walks to help end Veteran suicide, conduct Buddy Checks to check on members and Veterans in your community, provide training in your Post - Columbia Protocol training slides are available, I have a copy, you can get a copy by going through the training.

<https://www.legion.org/betheone> - register for training, find resources, etc...



The Commander's video on BeTheOne be the one to change a life, be the one to save a life.
<https://www.legion.org/commander/videos/PL048E5F43D9D11C0E/Td7SSGOU6zw>

Please continue to ask Veterans to join our great organization. While you are talking to Veterans please talk to them about the opportunities for the entire family to serve – Auxiliary, Riders, and Sons of the American Legion. Thank you to every Post that is working hard to keep the members that are Members already as well as recruiting new members. We all need to be active, relevant, and visible. We have to continue asking people to join our Legion Family.

I see so many great things going on around the District. Please continue promoting our great you.

Please sign up for the Department Convention in Appleton, July 10th to the 14th -
<https://events.eventzilla.net/e/105th-department-convention-2138609720>

June 14th is Flag Day and the Army Birthday, please take time to celebrate the unity that our Flag should bring to all of us in the United States. **Celebrate the Army Veterans in your community.**



What successful Posts do:

Active, innovative Posts retain their members and draw new members • Meaningful activities based around Legion values help create a positive reputation in the community • A Post should be proud of its community, and a community should be proud of its Post • We believe every Post activity is a membership activity – Why? The Legion’s great programs need funding and manpower to be effective –Membership provides both • The Big Picture – the larger our organization, the more impact we have at all levels • Each Post’s goal should be growth, even modest growth

RELEVANT POST ACTIVITIES • Your Post should have activities relevant to all members • Members are different ages and lifestyles • Do you have: –Veteran-oriented events –Family-oriented events – Children-oriented events –Community-oriented events • Regularly scheduled vs. special events

Build Local Relationships - Mayor, town council, administrator, etc. –Ask how the Post can better help the community • Local business owners and leaders –Join the Chamber of Commerce –Create partnerships –Maybe even find Veterans along the way • Communicate the value of the Post –“State of the Post” presentation B

Public Relations Toolkit- Guide to public relations in your Post - Will answer most of your questions - Examples of press releases, marketing materials, event planning, using photos and videos, working with local media - **Full of ideas and examples - USE it!** (<https://www.legion.org/prtoolkit>)

AMERICAN LEGION PROGRAMS – <https://www.legion.org/programs> – American Legion Baseball – American Legion Boys State – American Legion Boys Nation – American Legion Junior Shooting Sports – American Legion Oratorical Contest – American Legion Scholarships – American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement – American Legion Amateur Radio Program – American Legion Riders – American Legion College – National Emergency Fund – Operation Comfort Warriors – Temporary Financial Assistance – Citizenship Classes – Veterans Education and Employment – Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, - - Flag Advocacy – Get out the Vote

Fundraising – As members and Posts we do an awesome job raising money for so many wonderful causes. We would like you to consider donating for the Programs here in the Department of Wisconsin as well. Even if you donate a couple percent from your fundraiser you will be helping the Department continue critical programs.

Announcements from Department:

National Convention will be August 22-29, 2024, in New Orleans, LA. Wisconsin will be housed at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside.

o Important Dates:

- CPR Report: June 1st
- Americanism Awards due June 1st
- Children & Youth Ambassador Award due June 1st
- Badger Boys State: June 9-15, 2024, UW Eau Claire
- WALLECA July 29- August 2, 2024, Ft. McCoy
- National Membership Workshop July 25-27, 2024, Indianapolis, IN
- 1st Annual Patriots Car Show September 7, 2024, Legion Headquarters
- 1st Annual Celebration of Freedom Golf Outing September 21, 2024, Fairfield Hills Golf Club, Baraboo, WI



Grant Supports Local Therapy to Veterans

Mental health services are now readily available to veterans through a grant awarded to Highland Springs Counseling, by the State of Wisconsin. Highland Springs Counseling, LLC is located at 523 Main Street in Highland, Wisconsin and provides therapy to maintain and increase mental health, especially for those who have experienced trauma.

On May 1st, 2024, Secretary James Bond, of the Wisconsin Department of Veteran's Affairs (WDVA) was in Highland to present Highland Springs Counseling, LLC with the Emergency/Crisis Mental Health Treatment Program for Veterans Grant. This grant funds traditional therapy to maintain mental health well-being as well as crisis intervention programs. This therapy is provided at no cost to eligible Wisconsin residents who have served our country as military, National Guard, or Reserve members. Eligibility is not based on years served, and the reasons for therapy do not have to be directly related to active duty. Issues faced by veterans can include relationships and other life stressors.

Therapy can be offered in-person at the office, telehealth, or in-home for homebound individuals in the local area. Tricia Morzenti, the therapist at Highland Springs Counseling, is honored to serve the veterans who have served our country and communities. She values their sacrifice, courage, and determination.

This opportunity for therapy goes through March 2025, and can be obtained by contacting Tricia at (608) 937-9390 for a consultation. You can also access their website at highlandspringscounseling.com

American Legion Third District Golf Scramble

Sunday, June 20, 2024
Deer Valley Golf Course Barneveld WI
8:00 AM Registration
9:00 AM Shotgun Start

Cost is \$65.00 per person \$260.00 per team

Send team listing and payment to:
American Legion Post 393
P O Box 283
Black Earth WI 53515-0283

Players age 70 and older may tee off from the green tee makers

A lunch (included) following golf, will be held at the Barneveld Legion Hall 102 Wood Street, Barneveld WI 53507

Contact Dennis J Wood at 608-767-3665 or denniswood1808 @gmail.com with questions/concerns

You may also contact Todd King, Head Pro at Deer Valley Golf Course if interested : 608-924-3033

I do not golf but would help with registration, prizes, or contests on the course.

Name _____ email _____ phone _____

\$260.00 enclosed

Captain _____ email _____ phone _____

My 4 person team _____

I do not have a team – Please place me with a team. \$65.00

Name _____ email _____ phone _____

On Saturday Darlington American Legion Post 214 Members along with the help of Robert Wiegel and around 25 High School Students put flags on the gravesites of the Veterans in Holy Rosary and Union Grove Cemeteries. There are approximately 271 Veterans at Holy Rosary Cemetery and 456 Veterans in Union Grove Cemetery. Post 214 would like to thank Robert Wiegel and High School students who took the time to Honor the Veterans who are no longer with us by placing American Flags on their gravesites. We do our best not to miss any Veterans Grave, but once in a while we do accidentally miss one or two. If you notice a Veterans Grave that does not have a Flag on it, please give a call to the following American Legion Members and we will make sure the oversight is taken care of. Dave Heins-608-482-4606, Jerry King-608-553-1493 or Dan O'Brien-608-482-0117. Flags were also placed at the following Cemeteries by the O'Brien Family. Seymour, West Wiota, Miller and Lamont Cemeteries.



On [Wednesday April 24th](#) the Lafayette County American Legion held its County Government Day. This program is usually held in November, but due to conflicts with the courtroom it had to be moved to the April date. This year we had the following Schools participate in the programs. Blackhawk, Belmont, Benton and Argyle. We had some Department heads come and speak to the students and then the students were able to tour the courthouse and visit all the County Departments in the courthouse along with a visit to the County Jail. The students then had lunch at Darlington American Legion Post 214 which was served by Legion Auxiliary 214 members. After lunch the students went upstairs at the Legion Post and heard from a guest speaker from UW Platteville who talked about the opportunities at UW Platteville and what college in general can offer you. The students then heard from US Air Force Recruiter Tech Sgt. Molina who gave a talk on the advantages of going into the Military. He talked about the different stages of entering the Air Force and what those programs can transfer to when you go back to civilian life. It was a good learning day for the students and the Lafayette County American Legion would like to thank Lafayette County Veterans Service Officer Sam Fuller for putting this program together. Another outstanding job. A big thank you to the Speakers at the Courthouse; Dan Hammer-Finance Officer, Chris Lange-Human Resources, Jenna Gill-District Attorney, Allison Taylor-Economic Development and Katrina Houtakker-Lafayette County Manor. The American Legion would also like to thank all the Department Heads for taking the time to explain their job duties for the County. With the cooperation of the Lafayette County Board and its employees we have one of best County Government Days in the State.

Dan O'Brien / Lafayette County



ALA JUNIOR PATCH PROGRAM

Carol & Bill Ridgely, D3 Americanism co-chairs

Any Junior member of the ALA and school-aged Sons of The American Legion can be part of the Junior Patch Program. You don't have to have an active group to participate.

American Legion Auxiliary Junior members and Sons of The American Legion youth members can be active participants of the organization with the Patch Program. Regardless of where one lives, and whether she/he belongs to an active Junior group or squadron, Junior Auxiliary members and SAL youth members can serve their communities and veterans, and learn about patriotism, health, fitness, and leadership through this program.

Each sheet explains the criteria and what must be accomplished to earn a specific patch. When the activities are completed, an adult or Senior member must sign the form to verify that the Junior or SAL youth has met the patch criteria.

There are four levels of patch criteria:

- **Purple Level:** Pre-School through Kindergarten. Children of this age can earn the following patches.



- Americanism: Educate yourself about the rights and responsibilities of an American citizen,
- Membership: Your eligibility for membership is a gift from a veteran.
- Poppy: The symbol of sacrifices our veterans have made.

For each of the above three patches, four of the seven possible choices must be completed to earn the patch. For example, to earn the Americanism patch, a member could recite the Pledge of Allegiance with an adult, color some pages in the ALA's *America the Beautiful* coloring books, draw a picture about what is important to them living in the United States and have an adult identify the proper number of stars and stripes on the American flag.

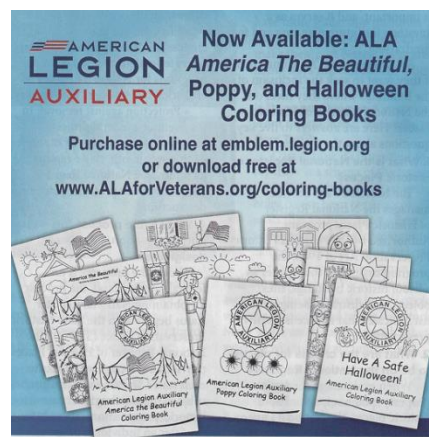
- **Red Level:** 1st through 4th grade, pictured below,
- **Gold Level:** 5th grade through 8th grade,
- **Blue Level:** 9th grade through 12th grade (or 18 years old).

There is no cost for the patches which may be ordered online at:

<https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Junior-Patch-Program-Order-Form>

Patch Sheets are available at: www.ALAforVeterans.org

For questions and comments, please contact the National Junior Activities Committee at junioractivities@ALAforVeterans.org or call National Headquarters at 317-569-4500.



New Elected Third District Auxiliary Officers for 2024 – 2026

President – Noreen Schmidt

1st Vice President – Shelley Drager

2nd Vice President – Nicole Welsh

Chaplain – Jeanette Cline

Historian – Jenni Syftestad

Appointed Officers:

Secretary / Treasurer – Shannon Churchill

Parliamentarian – Joanie Dickerson

Sgt – At-Arms – Deb Rottman

Asst Sgt – At – Arms – Olivia Rottman

HOLIDAY EVENTS AROUND THE AREA

Mazomanie Unit 437



MEMORIAL DAY
Remember and Honor
MAY 27TH

Hosted by: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 437

Westland Promenade Shelters - Mazomanie
(Rain Location: Mazo Community Building)

 **12PM: FREE PIG ROAST**
Catered by Jeremi Jennings

1PM: FREE CONCERT
JANNA and the junkyard dawgs 
* Please bring your own chairs *.

50/50 RAFFLES ★ BASKET RAFFLE
drawing @ 3PM

KIDS ACTIVITES

10AM: MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM
Location: The Grove, 314 Anne St., Mazo.
Cemetery Service Following
Hosted by American Legion Post 437



SHARE NIGHT

Please join us on:

Thursday, June 6, 2024, from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

At: **Culver's of Sauk City, 716 Phillips Boulevard**

10% of Sales Benefit

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 437 - Mazomanie

Culver's



Shullsburg will hold its Hometown Throwdown on [July 3rd](#). Gates open at 4pm with local band Sunshine taking the stage at 5pm. At 7pm US Army veteran, Afghanistan Purple Heart recipient Scott Hastings will perform. After Scott Hastings taking the stage at 9pm will be US Army veteran Chris Lane performing his country hits.



Shullsburg's 4th of July festivities Parade at 10:30am. Festivities in Badger Park following the parade to include: Baseball game, beer tent, rides for the kids, pie auction, music entertainment, and the finale will be Fireworks at dusk.