



# JANUARY 2025

# THE INFORMER

**January 2025** - Mid-Winters in Appleton

**February 15** - District Holiday Party - Barneveld Legion Post  
(Included in this issue luncheon reservation form for Holiday Party)  
Please note there will be a speaker at 11:00am plan accordingly

**February 22** - District Oratorical Contest - Marshall Post 279

**March 25** - DEC Mineral Point Legion Post. Meeting at 7pm

**April 26** - Spring Conference in Monroe

**May 27** - DEC Barneveld Legion Post. Meeting at 7pm

**June 24** - DEC Richland Center Legion Post. Meeting at 7pm

**July** - State Convention to be held in Green Bay



## Dan O'Brien – 3rd District Commander

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone in our Third District. As I sit here typing up this letter to you, it is snowing outside and like always it looks pretty coming down, but then I have to go outside and shovel it.

It has been a fast year and ever since July when I was sworn in as your 3rd District Commander it has gone by very fast. We as the 3rd District have accomplished so much and as I have heard at meetings; we are planning to do more positive things in our District. Good things happening in 2025. I hope everyone is taking the time to read our 3rd District Informer, The Badger Legionnaire and The American Legion Magazine. You can see what is getting accomplished at the Post, County, District, State and National level. WE are making a difference. It sometimes seems like we attend too many meetings, but then you hear, see or are a part of the positive things Posts are doing, and it makes it all worthwhile. We just need to take a breath, sit back, and realize all the good WE accomplish. Keep moving forward.

We are getting into our busy time of the year when we should be working on our programs and planning our events. Go to your Admin. Manuals and see what you should be working on. We have Badger Boys State, WALLECA, Oratorical Scholarship Program, School Scholarships, County Government Day, Educator of the Year, Firefighter of the year, EMT, Police Officer and so on. There is so much to do so make sure your Post is actively working on these programs. What an exciting time to be active in your Post and your Community.

As we enter 2025 every Post should evaluate itself. Are you following the Calendar in the Admin. Manual to get the items listed done. Do you have an in-Post Calander where you are planning your programs and events? Are you planning good meetings? Look at things you would like to change or new goals you would like to meet. Make the meetings interesting. If your Post is not planning and operating by the seat of your pants, then it makes it hard to get positive things done and hard to have a good meeting. Make 2025 the year that your Post is on track.

I have stated before my four goals as your 3rd District Commander that I would like to see taking place at each Post. They are Communication, Involvement, Visibility and Accountability. As I visit County and Post meetings I will be talking about these four goals because they are all keys to having not only a strong Legion Post, but a strong Legion Family within your Post. If we have strong Legion Posts this will flow upward and then we will have strong Counties within our District. I am looking forward to talking to all of you this coming year.

As we end 2024, I would like to thank everyone for their support. We are doing a good job on Membership which keeps us strong, but there is still work to be done. County Commanders be working with your Posts to get those Headquarter 2930 members transferred into Posts. Be doing "Buddy Checks. Once you start doing them, you will wonder why you were not doing this before. I just made a couple this week and it makes a difference. Remember to be the one making a difference in your Post "Be Relevant".

Be making your reservations for the 2025 Mid-Winter Conference in Appleton. If you are not coming for the whole conference, make plans to get a carpool together and come up for the Saturday Training. This is a great experience, and every Legion Member should take advantage of it.

Our Holiday Party is coming up on Saturday February 15th in Barneveld. Get your reservations sent in so the Barneveld Post can plan the lunch.

May God Bless all Veterans. May God Bless all of you as we head into 2025.

There will be a speaker at 11:00am. Plan to be there for the speaker.



**3<sup>rd</sup> District**

# *Holiday Party*

***Saturday, February 15, 2025***

RSVP by January 28, 2025

*Post 433*

*P.O. Box 36 102 Wood St. Barneveld, WI 53507*

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***Doors open at 9:30***

***Lunch will start at Noon***

Swiss Steak / Chicken Breast / Mashed Potatoes and Gravy  
Vegetable / Diner Roll / Desert

(Bring extra CASH - 50/50 drawing throughout the day.)

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**\$15.00** per person

Make checks payable to: Eveland - Trainer Post 433

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Detach and return with payment.

Mail to: Eveland - Trainer Post 433 PO Box 36 - Barneveld, WI 53507

(Please print clearly)



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Unit: \_\_\_\_\_



## Americanism

Carol & Bill Ridgely, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Americanism Co-chairs **608-846-2823**

Upcoming events in Americanism

### **Americanism & Government Scholarship Test - 2025 Test Dates: March 3-14, 2025**

Students are given the opportunity to receive recognition and scholarships by taking an online test comprised of 50 multiple-choice, true and false questions followed by an essay question of 300 words or less. The program is endorsed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and is open to any Wisconsin student in the 10th, 11th or 12th grade. Scholarships are:

- 10th Grade- 11 \$250 Scholarships awarded
- 11th Grade- 11 \$300 Scholarships awarded
- 12th Grade- 11 \$750 Scholarships awarded

The test access button will be live after March 2, 2025, at [wilegion.org/scholarships/](http://wilegion.org/scholarships/)

### **Americanism Essay Resources**

**Units select from the submitted essays the top one from each category. Send only these top essays to DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN by March 15, 2025.**

The Americanism Essay Contest was created to teach students the value of patriotism and what it means to be Americans.

Students (grades 3 to 12) explore the fundamental rights and freedoms we enjoy today. Each year's contest has a different theme; one student in each category per division is awarded a prize. There is a category for students with special needs.

Current Essay Theme: *"What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?"*

#### **[Essay Cover Sheet](#)**

Americanism Essay criteria and rubric

[www.amlegionauxwi.org/files/ugd/8bea47\\_4d796b91b27545868c2dd7816ac838c5.pdf](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org/files/ugd/8bea47_4d796b91b27545868c2dd7816ac838c5.pdf)

Americanism Essay Contest flow chart

[www.amlegionauxwi.org/files/ugd/8bea47\\_65726fa6a1694b2e90ce3d9dbce15884.pdf](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org/files/ugd/8bea47_65726fa6a1694b2e90ce3d9dbce15884.pdf)

Americanism Essay Contest submission form

[www.amlegionauxwi.org/files/ugd/8bea47\\_00c332fbd6474da19524f837c9ab5e29.pdf](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org/files/ugd/8bea47_00c332fbd6474da19524f837c9ab5e29.pdf)



**Noreen Schmidt – 3<sup>rd</sup> District President**

Five hundred 25 thousand, six hundred minutes in a year. Not all veterans discharged after serving in the military resume their normal life before serving; and how do you measure the life of those veterans with five hundred 25 thousand, six hundred minutes?

I have an acquaintance who has his grandfather's military history professionally matted and framed hanging in his office. The collage includes his grandfather's medals and bars, a pencil drawing of a B-17, the flag that was draped over his grandfather's casket and the telegram that his great-grandmother received informing her that her 19-year-old son who was a tail gunner on a B-17 was shot down and considered MIA. How many minutes did his great-grandmother pace the floor praying to God for the safe return of her 19-year-old son? How many minutes did the 19-year-old soldier MIA keep track of his time while in captivity; by the sunlight, if he saw sunlight at all, by the darkness of the night?

How many minutes in a year did the homeless veteran sleep outside in the cold rain? How many minutes in a year did the veterans drink or use drugs trying to erase the haunting memories of their time in battle? How many minutes in a year did the veteran contemplate ending their own life before they pulled the trigger? In just one day, 22 veterans commit suicide.

As I write this article for "The Informer", I have 21,600 minutes left in 2024 trying to make better the lives of veterans. I still have time to contact the elected officials requesting additional funding for both physical and mental health care. I can continue my volunteer service at the William S. Middleton Memorial Hospital in Madison. I still have time to financially support the Badger Honor Flight and the Lone Eagle Honor Flight, and I can continue to write cards and letters to be handed out for the "mail call" for veterans on the 2025 Flights. I can donate food for the various food pantries serving our veterans.

You and I, we still have time in 2024 to improve the lives of our nation's veterans, but also for our active military and military families. In 2025, we will have five hundred 25 thousand, six hundred minutes to care for our nation's veterans, active military and military families.

**Dear County and Unit presidents,** I strongly urge you to promote the following conferences and meetings with the members within the Third District.

The Auxiliary's **2025 Mid-Winter Conference** is being held on January 18<sup>th</sup> in Appleton at the Hilton Paper Valley Hotel, registration fee is \$25.00 per person before January 2<sup>nd</sup> and \$30.00 after January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Department has scheduled some very informative and helpful workshops. Special guest speakers will be from the UW MIA Recovery and Identification Project. Information was published in the November 2024 District's newsletter "The Informer".

The **Third District Holiday Party** is on Saturday, February 15 at the Eveland-Trainer Post 433 in Barneveld. A delicious lunch consisting of Swiss steak, chicken breast, mashed potatoes, vegetable/dessert. The guest speaker is Kelly Nelson, author of the book "Brownie the World War II Dog". The luncheon fee is only \$15.00 per person for a delightful day. Information was published in the November and December Third District newsletters.

The **Third District Conference** will be held on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> in Monroe at the Zilmer-Riley Post. More information to follow.





## Chaplain - Jeanette Cline

Be a bright flame before me. O God a guiding star above me today, tonight, and forever.

Alone with none but you, my God, I journey on my way; what need I fear when you are near, O Lord of night and day? More secure am I within your hand than if a multitude did round me stand. Amen.



## PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

Lisa Olson

Third District Past Presidents Parley Chair

I have to admit I was pretty glad when President Noreen asked me to report on the "Past Presidents Parley Program" because I really wasn't up to date on what this program was and it was a chance to learn something new. I remember when I was a new member many years ago while attending my first State Convention, I walked past a door in the hotel hallway with a sign that said "Past Presidents Parley" & I wondered what is a "PARLEY"? It's not a common word used in today's world. But it was a busy day and I never did find out that day. So I looked up the word on "GOOGLE". I found many definitions but the one that best fits our group is this one:

*"Where creators, thinkers, and leaders come together to raise awareness"*

So my next Google search of course was on the State of Wisconsin ALA Department website & under the Programs section and I found that our past Department President Joanie Dickerson is this year's PPP Chairman. The purpose of this program is to use the experience and knowledge of past Auxiliary leaders at all levels to train and encourage future leaders. All Units are all encouraged to establish a Past Presidents Parley group in our own local units. The dues are only \$7.00 per year for each Past President. Dues can be paid by the Unit or by the members.

The application form can be found on the ALA Dept website <http://www.amlegionauxwi.org>

Look under the Forms tab: [https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/files/ugd/8bea47\\_ba3ff90ce61f4b22a8607e548474551a.pdf](https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/files/ugd/8bea47_ba3ff90ce61f4b22a8607e548474551a.pdf)

The PPP is a standing committee of the American Legion Auxiliary. They promote the activities of the Auxiliary, with special consideration given to female veterans. Eligibility to membership in the PPP is based on two factors: 1) a member must have served as President of the American Legion Auxiliary on the unit, county, district, or department level, and 2) unit dues must have been paid for the current year. Please Note: If a president succeeds themselves in office, they are considered a past president after the end of their first term and may then join the PPP.

Among the projects that the PPP promotes is the "Mentor of the Year" Award. More information & application forms can be found on the department website.

Another program which the PPP program sponsors is their Scholarship Fund which awards three healthcare scholarships each year to qualified applicants in need of financial assistance to complete their education in Nursing and Healthcare fields. Any unit or individual member can also donate to this PPP Scholarship Fund.

~ January is the perfect time to highlight ALL of the Auxiliary scholarships available too. The deadlines come very fast.



## **Membership Shelley and Nicole**

Way to go 3<sup>rd</sup> District, we are up 3% just in the past 2 weeks. We so appreciate all your hard work in getting renewals in. I know it gets tough getting those last few members paid. It is so worth it, when it means we keep the pulse going steady and we are able to help the many veteran programs that are so valuable to our veterans and military families.

So, for the sake of serving from the heart, let's keep working on membership, recruitment is essential for us to continue. As we look around the District, many units are aging and they have worked hard for so very long, it's time we work on getting them a well-deserved break. One way we can help with that is new members or former members. Reach out to potential members through the newspapers and Facebook groups. Talk about upcoming events your American Legion Family has planned. Branding is key to letting those not already involved informed of what we are doing not only as a Unit but as a District and Department. The more people know about our accomplishments the more they will want to be a part of this fantastic organization.

Good Luck, go forth and enjoy your family and friends this season.

Keep an eye out for those potential members right at your dinner table.

# BINGO



## 2024-2025 Bingo Season

Dec 22, Jan 26, Feb 23, Mar 23, April 27

Ticket sales start at noon, first game starts at 1 pm.

50/50 Raffles

Plays 10 Games Pays \$45/Game

Concession stand by the  
Sons of the American Legion

American Legion Post 84

1627 12th Ave, Monroe, WI 53566

608-325-4244

[www.monroelezionpost84.com/bingo](http://www.monroelezionpost84.com/bingo)