

3rd DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER

THE INFORMER

MAY - 2024



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Comrades:

We had such a fantastic 3rd District Legion Family Conference in Fennimore on the 20th of April. What a great turnout and fantastic conference. We had several leaders speak to us about their candidacy for higher office. We heard from Department Commander Karl Stuvengen about all of our Legion programs, about the importance of BeTheOne. We had Vice Commander Jim Johnson who is running for Department Commander speak about his personal experience as he joined our great organization and the drive to continue to serve. John Armbruster gave an awesome presentation at lunch time. We heard reports about our programs and the important work being done across the District and Department. We were able to present awards to the Of the Year Award Winners. Thank you to everyone who made the conference such a success.

Congratulations to 1st Vice Commander Dan O'Brien and Mike Rohan on their elections to the high offices of 3rd District Commander and 3rd District 1st Vice Commander respectively. Our District could not be in better hands.





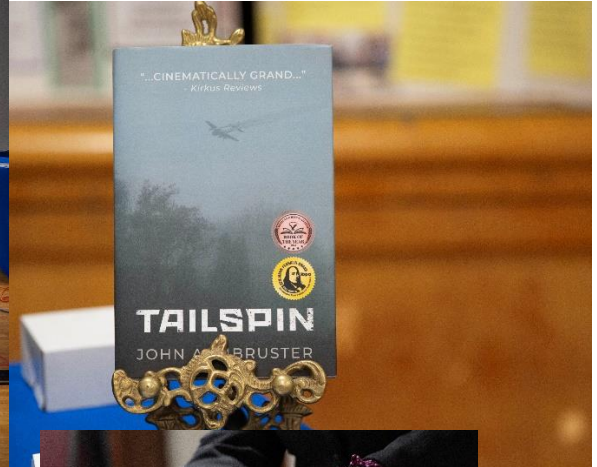


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Please continue to ask Veterans to join our great organization. While you are talking to Veterans please talk to them about the opportunities for the entire family to serve – Auxiliary, Riders, and Sons of the American Legion. Thank you to every Post 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.

Congratulations and thank you to the 3rd District Posts that have hit 100% already – Stoughton, Mount Horeb, Cambridge, Marshall, Black Earth, DeForest, Waunakee, Verona, Platteville, Lancaster, Bloomington, Mount Hope, Cassville, Potosi, Brodhead, Shullsburg, Blanchardville, Argyle, Benton, and Lone Rock. Several Posts are within just a few members to reach 100%, keep up the great work. We Can Do This! Grant County is leading the way.

I see so many great things going on around the District. Please continue promoting our great organization. We serve all Veterans and no place is that more evident than in the 3rd District.

Thank you.



Commander Steven Post of American Legion Post 473 , Potosi; awards Ted Bode with a 50 year membership certificate. Ted is also presented with a Quilt of Valor for his service in Vietnam with the CB's.



105th Annual Department Convention
July 10-14, 2024
Hilton Paper Valley Hotel ~ Appleton

MEETING SCHEDULE

(Schedules are subject to change)

| WEDNESDAY, JULY 10TH | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Legion Office | 10:00 AM-5:00 PM | Oaktag |
| Membership Committee Meeting | 5:00 PM-7:00 PM | Lawrence |
| American Legion Foundation, Inc, | 5:00 PM-7:00 PM | Parchment |
| THURSDAY, JULY 11TH | | |
| Legion Office | 7:00 AM-5:00 PM | Oaktag |
| Registration | 7:00 AM-5:00 PM | Convention Lobby |
| Exhibits | 8:00 AM-5:00 PM | Convention Lobby |
| Americanism Committee Meeting | 7:00 AM-9:00 AM | Redwood |
| Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation | 7:00 AM-9:00 AM | Linden |
| Credentials Committee Meeting | 7:00 AM-9:00 AM | Oaktag |
| Fundraising Committee Meeting | 7:00 AM-9:00 AM | Bond |
| Religious Emphasis Committee Meeting | 7:00 AM-9:00 AM | Parchment |
| National/Homeland Security Committee | 9:00 AM-11:00 AM | Rosewood |
| Internal Affairs Committee Meeting | 9:00 AM-11:00 AM | Ebony |
| Children & Youth Committee Meeting | 9:00 AM-11:00 AM | Crown |
| Marketing & Communications Committee | 9:00 AM-11:00 AM | Briarwood |
| Finance Committee Meeting | 11:00 AM-1:00 PM | Redwood |
| Convention & Activities Commission Meeting | 11:00 AM-1:00 PM | Parchment |
| Legislative Committee | 11:00 AM-1:00 PM | Bond |
| Hospital Committee Meeting | 11:00 AM-1:00 PM | Linden |
| Legion/Auxiliary/SAL DEC Luncheon | 1:00 PM-2:30 PM | Salon C |
| WALCAA Meeting | 2:00 PM | Ebony |
| Department Executive Committee Meeting | 4:00 PM | Salon AB |
| Leadership Convention Briefing | Post DEC | Salon AB |



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MEETING SCHEDULE

(Schedules are subject to change)

| FRIDAY, JULY 12TH | | |
|--|------------------|----------------------|
| Legion Office | 7:00 AM-5:00 PM | Oaktag |
| Registration | 7:00 AM-5:00 PM | Convention Lobby |
| Exhibits | 8:00 AM-5:00 PM | Convention Lobby |
| VIP/Green Room | 8:00 AM-1:00 PM | Briarwood |
| 1 st District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Pippin |
| 2 nd District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Lawrence |
| 3 rd District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | McIntosh |
| 4 th District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Hickory |
| 5 th District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Clark Boardroom (LL) |
| 6 th District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Ebony |
| 7 th District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Cortland |
| 8 th District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Linden |
| 9 th District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Redwood |
| 10 th District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Crown |
| 11 th District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Rosewood |
| 12 th District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Bond |
| Sergeant-At-Arms Meeting | 8:00 AM-8:30 AM | Salon AB |
| Blood Drive | 9:00 AM-2:00 PM | Salon D |
| Convention Session | 9:00 AM | Salon AB |
| Dual Members Club Meeting | 12:00 PM-1:00 PM | Redwood |
| Wisconsin Historian Assoc. (WHA) Meeting | 1:00 PM-2:00 PM | Hickory |
| Americanism Convention Committee | 2:00 PM-4:00 PM | Rosewood |
| Children & Youth Convention Committee | 2:00 PM-4:00 PM | Parchment |
| Finance Convention Committee | 2:00 PM-4:00 PM | Ebony |
| Constitutional Amendments Conv. Comm. | 2:00 PM-4:00 PM | Cortland |
| Membership Convention Committee | 2:00 PM-4:00 PM | McIntosh |
| Legislative Convention Committee | 2:00 PM-4:00 PM | Bond |
| National/Homeland Security Conv. Comm. | 2:00 PM-4:00 PM | Crown |
| Resolutions Convention Committee | 2:00 PM-4:00 PM | Linden |
| VA&R Convention Committee | 2:00 PM-4:00 PM | Lawrence |
| Credentials Committee | 3:00 PM | Oaktag |
| Legion Ballot Clerk Meeting | 4:00 PM | Salon C |
| GNUTS Social | 4:30 PM-6:30 PM | Redwood |



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MEETING SCHEDULE

(Schedules are subject to change)

SATURDAY, JULY 13TH

| | | |
|--|------------------|-------------------------|
| Legion Office | 7:00 AM-5:00 PM | Oaktag |
| Registration | 7:00 AM-5:00 PM | Convention Lobby |
| Exhibits | 8:00 AM-5:00 PM | Convention Lobby |
| VIP/Green Room | 8:00 AM-1:00 PM | Briarwood |
| 1 st District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Pippin |
| 2 nd District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Lawrence |
| 3 rd District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | McIntosh |
| 4 th District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Hickory |
| 5 th District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Clark Boardroom (LL) |
| 6 th District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Ebony |
| 7 th District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Cortland |
| 8 th District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Linden |
| 9 th District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Redwood |
| 10 th District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Crown |
| 11 th District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Rosewood |
| 12 th District Caucus | 7:30 AM-8:30 AM | Bond |
| Legion Elections | 8:30 AM-10:30 AM | Salon C |
| Convention Session | 9:30 AM | Salon AB |
| Chaplain's Luncheon | 1:00 PM | Clubhouse Kitchen & Bar |
| Past Department Commander's Luncheon | 1:00 PM | McIntosh |
| Past Department Commander's Spouses Luncheon | 1:00 PM | Clubhouse Kitchen & Bar |
| Legion Run-Off Election | 2:00 PM-3:30 PM | Salon C |
| Counter Strike Gaming | 1:00 PM-5:00 PM | Rosewood/Linden |
| Incoming District Commander Training | 2:00 PM-3:30 PM | Crown |
| Catholic Church Service | 5:00 PM-6:00 PM | Salon D |
| Protestant Church Service | 5:00 PM-6:00 PM | Lawrence |
| Memorial Service Practice | 6:30 PM | Empire |
| Past Commanders Club Board Meeting | 6:00 PM | TBD |
| Past Commanders Club Party | 7:00 PM-11:00 PM | Salon AB |

SUNDAY, JULY 14TH

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Legion Office | 7:00 AM | Oaktag |
| Memorial Service | 8:00 AM | Empire |
| Convention/Installation Session | 9:30 AM | Salon AB |
| Post DEC Meeting | Close of Convention | Rosewood/Linden |



Mission Impact



THE AMERICAN LEGION IS THE NATION'S LARGEST VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION

45,175
MEMBERS



CAMP AMERICAN LEGION
HOSTS
1000+



VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES EACH SEASON AT NO COST TO THEM

LEGION WI SERVICE OFFICE

\$68 MILLION
MONTHLY VETERAN
COMPENSATION

EARNED BENEFITS
RECEIVED ANNUALLY
\$800 MILLION

46,000+ VETERANS SERVED

3702 VOLUNTEER HOURS
DONATIONS TOTALING **\$133K** ANNUALLY
LEGION RIDERS **500** POSTS STATEWIDE



7,809
BLOOD DRIVE
DONATIONS

AVERAGE ANNUAL
VETERAN HOSPITAL
VOLUNTEER HOURS

25.5k



65K+
STRONG



LEGION FAMILY

OUR MISSION

To provide service to veterans, their families and their communities

3rd largest Legion Baseball program in the country

LEGION SOFTBALL

Over 220 Teams with 3900+ players each season



- 30+ teams
- Low registration costs
- Community Based

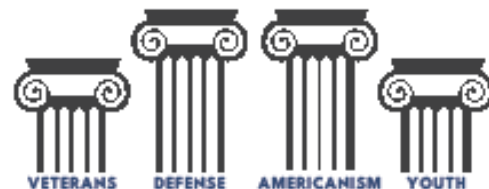
8,900+
YOUTH REACHED
EACH YEAR
THROUGH OUR PROGRAMS



- BADGER BOYS STATE
- AL BASEBALL/SOFTBALL
- ORATORICAL
- SCOUTING
- COUNTY YOUTH GOVERNMENT DAY
- JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS
- LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREER ACADEMY
- AMERICANISM AND GOVERNMENT TEST



OVER \$34K IN SCHOLARSHIPS ANNUALLY



FOUNDED ON 4 PILLARS

For more information, visit wilegion.org

District 3 Units have done amazing fundraising events and activities! How exciting to see their success depicted on trifold displays at our 2024 spring conference. Units worked the Americanism program through essays, flag programs, parades and honoring our heroes in cemeteries across the district. The Children and Youth programs were strong across the district. Units in Dane County coordinated with their schools and military families to support & recognize military children by celebrating Purple Up! Day in April. Units in Lafayette, Crawford, Richland, Grant, Dane and Iowa counties assisted their communities in parades, scholarships, fundraisers, giving trees, Christmas programs & breakfasts and so much more. In addition to offering \$15,000 in scholarships, Units in district 3 invested over \$18,000 and 1800 hours in Children & Youth programs! Additionally, Children Welfare Fund (CWF) donations were collected at spring conference in observance of American Legion Family Day, April 27th.

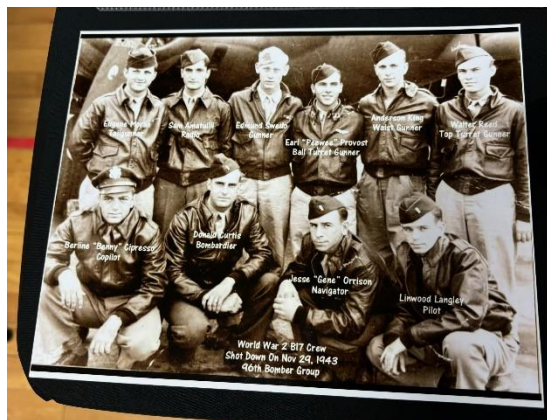
Approximately 80 Auxiliary members from 6 counties attended the 2024 District 3 Spring Conference, what great attendance! There were so many first time Spring Conference attendees, we are so glad that you decided to join us!! Spring Conference was filled with chairman reports & guest speakers who shared their program or mission and provided members with information and opportunities to participate. The Homeless Women Veterans Grant program was supported by a district basket raffle at spring conference. Thank you to ALL that brought baskets, purchased tickets and donated to the HWV Grant. Huge appreciation for the members of Unit 383 for working the basket raffle on behalf of district officers. Units also listened to Shawna Wyman of the Wisconsin Soldier and Family Readiness organization. Shawna shared information that assists Units in understanding what the Readiness program is and how they support Wisconsin's active-duty personnel.

We also want to thank the Fennimore and Grant County Legion Families for hosting this year. All who attended appreciate your efforts in hosting this event. The joint sessions with the Legion Family really packed the gymnasium! The Joint Opening Ceremonies and the Tailspin presentation were amazing! Congratulations to our Auxiliary Sergeants at Arms, Americanism Co-Chairmen Carol & Bill Ridgely and our Vice Presidents Lisa Bowen and Shelley Drager for their well-planned and meaningful ceremonies!! Thanks to all for their willingness to work together for the greater good of District 3 and to provide the best spring conference experience possible for YOU.

The author of Tailspin presented a visual story of the book and later had books available for sale and autograph. The story originates with Gene Moran from Soldiers Grove, located in 3rd District. Our District Legion Family enjoyed this presentation jointly over lunch at spring conference.



John Armbruster, Tailspin Author



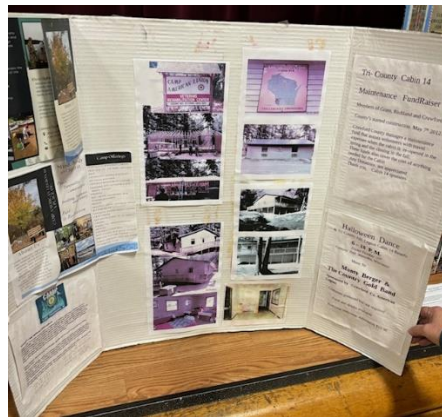
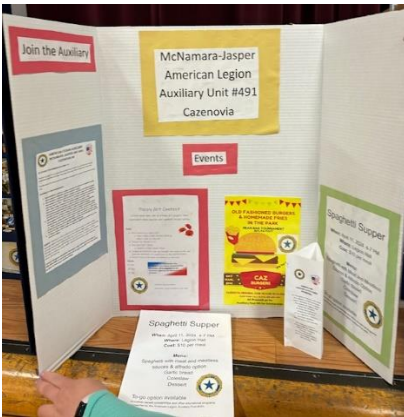
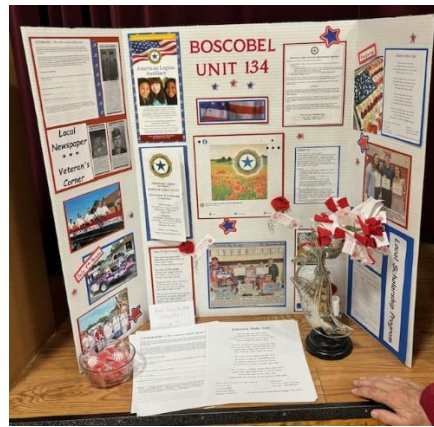
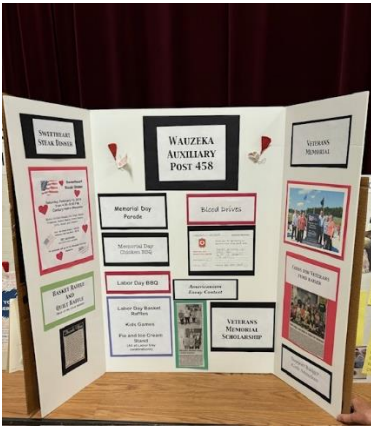
Tailspin: The Dally Crew



Lisa Bowen & Shelley Drager Wisconsin President Maggie Geiger Crawford County Officers

Mix & Mingle Session

Last year was our first year in Tri-Fold displays, this year seemed to be an improvement on the reception of displaying Unit activities and events. 14 Units created Tri-Fold displays this year. It is worthy of noting that these Units created displays for both 2023 & 2024 spring conferences: 13, 42, 59, 229, 245, 383, 437 & 482. Thank you for continuing to share your success with us. New to the Tri-Fold displays are the Units pictured below. Great work in participating for the first time! Thank you to ALL the Units for creating displays for conference!! We learn from each other and hopefully encourage each other as we involve more members. Here are the new displays below:



WI SOLDIER & FAMILY READINESS & HOMELESS WOMEN VETERAN FUND

Guest speakers from Wisconsin Soldier and Family Readiness and ALA Homeless Women Veterans program offered information regarding veteran assistance & volunteer opportunities in supporting active-duty guards, reserves and women veterans. These services or funds allow us to work our ALA National Security and Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) Programs. Your participation with this organization & program can potentially impact the lives of

military, veterans & their families where they live or where they're deployed to. Check out their websites or your conference materials to learn more about how you and your unit can get involved!



Shawna Wyman, WI Soldier & Family Readiness



Florence Wasley & Pat Smith
Homeless Women Veterans Grant

District 3 Poppy Chairperson Report- 4/2024

Poppies are a year round project. The needs of our veterans and their families are year round though we put special emphasis on National Poppy Day , May 24th and Memorial Day. WE must remind people to wear red and wear a poppy.

As members of the American Legion Auxiliary , we all accepted this responsibility of promoting and preserving the poppy program. We must encourage people to participate in he Poppy program. Share the Poppy Color Story!! Put an article in your local paper, on social media, put an article in your newsletter and add an envelope with history of poppy in it, a poppy so they can mail back to the chair with their donation. Possibly have a direct deposit , share this information in your newsletter.

Assemble containers and put in local businesses during the month of May. I have one business that keeps it there all year.

During the month of May have a distribution date set and a location site. Have a least two people at the location and provide contact information to all volunteers. Wear auxiliary logo apparel. Consider promotion tools such as flyers- how the money raised by the unit has helped veterans, posters or buttons. Invite local servicemembers to help in your distribution or display uniforms, boots, etc.

Encourage Legionnaires to join you for Poppy Days and ask them to wear their Legion caps. Work with your Public Relations Chair to help prepare a news release announcing Poppy Day and Program Fact sheet.

A Poppy Day Proclamation, news release template and samples are available through National Headquarters or online at www.ALAforVeterans.org

Promote the Poppy Poster Contest in local schools. These can be anytime of the year. Those who participate, along with their parents, will in turn spread the word about the program. Use some of these posters as advertisement in local stores by hanging a color copy. There are ALA poppy coloring books available which is a great way to educate ids about the meaning behind the poppy. They can be downloaded for free from www.ALAforVeterans.org.

We cannot let our Veterans and their families down. They gave us freedom and justice for all, so wear your red , take your poppies and greet your public with smiles, smiles, smiles.

Respectfully submitted- Sheila Luhman

SOLDIER & FAMILY READINESS SUPPORT SERVICES



WHAT IS FAMILY READINESS?

The state of being prepared to effectively navigate the challenges of daily living experienced in the unique context of military service by using the network of agencies, programs, services and individuals, the collaboration among them that promotes the readiness and quality of life for Service Members and their families.

SUPPORT AND SERVICES

- Provide support in the administration of Family Readiness Program services for Commanders
- Provide assistance to commands within the geographical area of responsibility in support of the Family Readiness and Family Assistance to include execution of the program and volunteer recruitment
- Assist military families with personal and family readiness
- Support of Service Members and their families during all stages of the deployment cycle
- Crisis information and support
- Management of the Family Readiness volunteer program
- Education on Financial Literacy and Career Readiness Support for Military Families

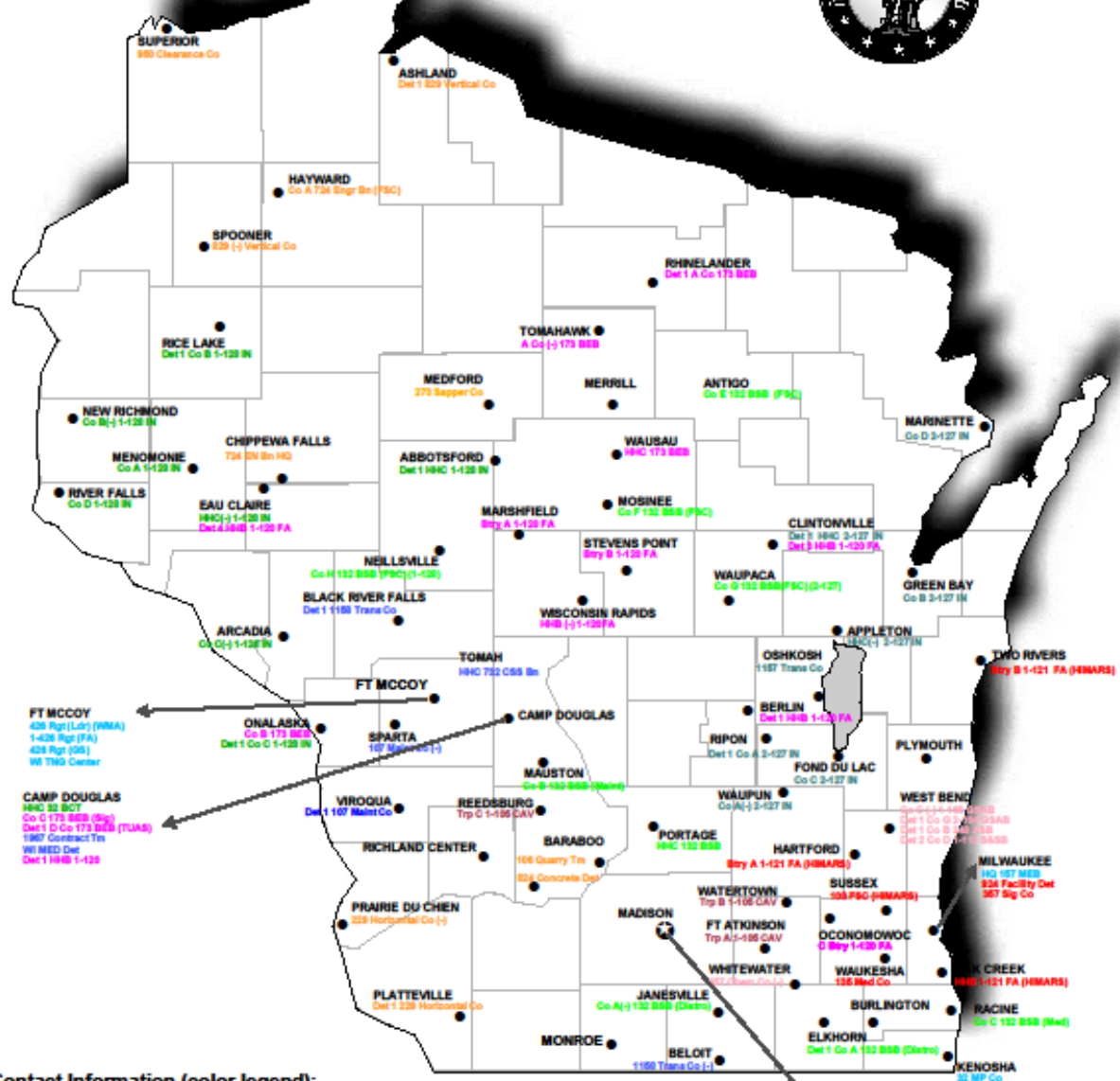
ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Provides information resource referral and non-medical administrative case management across all essential services; including but not limited to: Crisis, Legal, Financial, TRICARE, ID Cards/DEERS, Community Information and Outreach Services, Employment/Financial Literacy, Emergency Family Assistance Center (EFAC) and Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP).

SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE - MEET THE TEAM

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sween, Carina | S&FRS Supervisor | (608) 242-3961 | carina.a.sween.nfg@army.mil |
| VACANT | S&FRS (Appleton) | TBD | TBD |
| Hardy, Ashley | S&FRS (Milwaukee) | (608) 516-3599 | ashley.a.hardy2.nfg@army.mil |
| Klement, Jesse | S&FRS (Wausau) | (715) 307-4384 | jessica.a.klement.nfg@army.mil |
| Krueger, Eric | S&FRS (Camp Douglas) | TBD | eric.g.krueger4.nfg@army.mil |
| Miller, Andy | S&FRS (West Bend) | (608) 640-9308 | andrew.w.miller.nfg@army.mil |
| Moua, Marie | S&FRS (Chippewa Falls) | (715) 307-4383 | marie.moua.nfg@army.mil |
| Nakielski, Jayne | S&FRS (Portage) | (608) 513-2892 | jayne.k.nakielski.nfg@army.mil |
| Schoonover, Brandon | S&FRS (Camp Douglas) | (608) 219-8672 | brandon.l.schoonover.nfg@army.mil |
| Thao, Coua | S&FRS (Milwaukee) | (414) 531-2093 | coua.thao2.nfg@army.mil |
| Wyman, Shawna | S&FRS (Madison) | (608) 381-4513 | shawna.m.wyman2.nfg@army.mil |

Wisconsin Army National Guard Soldier and Family Readiness



Contact Information (color legend):

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sween, Carina | S&FRS Supervisor | (608) 242-3961 | carina.a.sween.nfg@army.mil |
| Vacant | S&FRS (Appleton) | (608) 242-3864 | TBD |
| Hardy, Ashley | S&FRS (Milwaukee) | (608) 516-3599 | ashley.a.hardy2.nfg@army.mil |
| Klement, Jesse | S&FRS (Wausau) | (608) 242-3865 | jessica.klement.nfg@army.mil |
| Miller, Andy | S&FRS (West Bend) | (608) 242-3862 | andrew.w.miller.nfg@army.mil |
| Mous, Marie | S&FRS (Chippewa Falls) | (715) 720-3410 | marie.mous.nfg@army.mil |
| Nakielski, Jayne | S&FRS (Portage) | (608) 242-3863 | jayne.k.nakielski.nfg@army.mil |
| Schoonover, Brandon | S&FRS (Camp Williams) | (608) 427-7213 | brandon.l.schoonover.nfg@army.mil |
| Krueger, Eric | S&FRS (Camp Williams) | (608) 427-7200 | eric.g.krueger4.nfg@army.mil |
| Thao, Coua | S&FRS (Milwaukee) | (414) 531-2093 | coua.thao2.nfg@army.mil |
| Wyman, Shawna | S&FRS (Madison) | (608) 301-8247 | shawna.m.wyman2.nfg@army.mil |

MADISON
1430 Wright St
HQ 1-100 CAV
Co D 132 858 (FSC)(1-100)
Det 2 149B 1-130 FA

MADISON
2400 Wright St
JPRG-88
132 Army Band
Det 1 Cyber Pro Team

MADISON
1854 Pearson St
Det 5 Co A 2-641 Avn
Det 82 OSAC

MADISON
6001 Manufacturers Dr
HQ 84 Troop Cmd
HQ 641 Troop Cmd Bn
112 MPAD
84 Civil Spt Tm (WID)
Co D (-) 173 858 (84)

MADISON
1420 Wright St (Complex)
W RFB

As of: 12 Feb 2024



2024 Annual ALA Department Convention
 Hilton Paper Valley
 333 West College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911
 July 11-14, 2024

REGISTRATION FORM

This is your registration form only; this is **NOT YOUR DELEGATE FORM**. Delegate Forms are mailed to the Unit **30 Days prior to Convention (June 12, 2024)** per the Department Constitution and Bylaws. It is advised however, to **register prior to this date**.

Remember **all members are encouraged to attend** the Department Convention, not just Delegates and Alternates. Only one registration per form; if you wish to register multiple people, you can do that by registering online at www.wilegion.org (preferred).

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Member ID #: _____ District Number: _____

AL Post #: _____ Auxiliary Unit #: _____ SAL Squadron #: _____

| ITEM | NUMBER | AMOUNT | TOTAL |
|--|--------|----------------|-------|
| Registration Fee | | \$30.00 | |
| Registration Fee after July 6, 2024 | | \$35.00 | |
| Saturday Evening PCC/Legion Family Event: Taco Bar- 7 PM, ½ Barrell of Beer, Soda, cash bar and Live Entertainment-Doors open at 6:30 PM <i>(Deadline to purchase tickets: June 26, 2024)</i> | | \$25.00/person | |
| Total Enclosed: | | | |

Make checks payable to The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin

Check #: _____

OR enter credit card information below

Card Type: _____ Card #: _____

Expiration date: ____/____ Security Code: _____

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