



## February 2025

## THE INFORMER

**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 – Hosted by Green County Posts and Units being held 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

I want to start this letter to the 3<sup>rd</sup> District by thanking Jenni for reminding me to get something into the Informer. Sadly, Jenni must remind me all the time.

I want to write about the message I want to get out to the 3<sup>rd</sup> District. These are four things I believe will help make a Post a good Post. They are:

1. **Communication**-Is there good communication within your Post. If you have 60 members in your Post and only 15 show up for the meeting, how do you communicate with the other 45 Members on what you meeting was about or what you are planning. We need to find ways to make sure all your members know what the Post is doing. Communication should not be just once a year contact for Membership. Buddy Checks would be a good start to communicating with your Membership. This communication should extend to the Legion Family within your Post too.
2. **Involvement**-How many times have you heard within your Post “It is always the same Members doing all the work.” It could be that the 45 members who didn’t attend the meeting didn’t know of the event that you needed help with. Don’t sit back and wait for members to get involved, call them and tell them about the event and the help you need and what you are doing it for.
3. **Visibility**-Is your Post Visible in your community? When hosting an event are you wearing Legion gear (Legion Caps, Legion Baseball Caps, shirts, etc) to show the community you are The American Legion and you are Post XYZ. Does your Post have signs signifying your Post is sponsoring this event. When you go to Memorial Day, Veterans Day or events, are you wearing Legion gear? Your community needs to know that you are two things. 1. A Veteran and 2. You are an American Legion Member who is still serving his fellow Veterans and their Community. THE THIRD DISTRICT HAS SIGNS THAT WE LEND OUT FOR EVENTS. Contact Dept. Vice Commander Jerry Hook if you would like to use these.
4. **Accountability**-Your Post and your Post alone are accountable for how it operates. Each Post should ask itself if it is having Good Meetings. Are you following the Admin. Manual to know when our programs (Scholarships, Oratorical, Of the Year Awards, WALLECA, A&G Testing, etc.). Does your Post turn in the proper paperwork on time. Consolidated Post Reports, Post Officer Reports, Post Data Reports? This is all Accountability.

How do we make these things happen in your Post. Be Positive, be Relevant and Be The One to make the difference in your Post. It takes just one or two members to turn things around. Let it begin with you.

## Up Coming Events

- ✓ Holiday Party at the Barneveld Legion Post on Saturday February 15<sup>th</sup>. Guest Speaker and author Kelly Nelson will give a presentation from 11 to noon. We eat at noon. Come and enjoy the camaraderie. If you need information on the Holiday Party contact either me or Barneveld Post Commander Lee Pollack.
- ✓ 3<sup>rd</sup> District Oratorical is Saturday February 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Marshall Legion Post. Doors open at 11am with the Oratorical starting at noon. County Commanders make sure you are giving Oratorical Chairman Peter Herman your contestant information. If for some reason your County does not have a contestant, you still need to contact Peter and let him know. We need to make sure our Oratorical Scholarship Contest goes smoothly.
- ✓ Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> will be the date for our Spring Conference in Monroe. More information to follow in Membership Reports and in the Informer.



Pictured from left to right are Fundraising Chairman Joe Boll, City Parks Director Wade Berget, City Parks Director Wade Berget, SAL Finance Officer John Knellwolf, Auxiliary President Cindy Corley, Legion 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Dave Heins, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Jerry King, and 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander and Post 214 member Dan O'Brien.

The City of Darlington is looking for donations to upgrade the City Ballpark that was built in 1975. Joe Boll a City Council Member and local historian, started up a fundraiser to get the necessary upgrades done. So far, the effort has raised close to \$90,000. The Darlington Post 214 Legion Family voted to help with this Children and Youth Project by donating \$5,000.00.

Commanders and Interested Oratorical Contest Parties,

Post and County Contests are underway. If you have not provided me the names yet, please provide me with the **contestant's name, grade, school and email address** for both the student and a parent so that we can relay any additional news.

I still need a few volunteers and judges for the District contest, so please let me know if you would like to volunteer or know someone interested in judging.

The District Contest will be held **Saturday, February 22** starting at 12:00, with doors opening at 11:00 at the Luther-Hamshire-Pearsall **Marshall American Legion Post 279**. Address is: 279 American Legion Circle.

The Wisconsin Oratorical Regional Contest is scheduled March 29, 2025, at Ripon College in the Todd Wehr Building. Opening ceremonies begin at 9 AM, contests begin at 10 AM.

The winners of the Regional contest will compete in the Finals contest, held the same day at 12:45 PM in the Todd Wehr Building of Ripon College.

Please contact me with any questions,

Peter Herman / 3<sup>rd</sup> District Oratorical / (608) 516-7243

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

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Hello, Legion Leadership!

The WI legion College needs your help in getting out the word regarding our Springtime virtual classes. With 16 classes scheduled, it is our largest virtual effort. We have over a month to inform people about these training opportunities, so let's not leave a single Legionnaire or other Legion Family member behind. Last year we had 220 attendees (with 75 no-shows). Our goal this year is 300! (with very few no-shows)

Virtual Training Springtime 2025 kicks off Sunday March 2. Clear your calendars and take advantage of these FREE courses. Take the Basic Course, and you will be on your way to earning the Wisconsin American Legion College Graduate pin. The schedule (also attached in a document) is:

Mar 2 (9AM-Noon) – Mylegion.org Course

Mar 2 (9AM-Noon) – Consolidated Post Report Course

Mar 5 (6-9 PM) – Post Commander Course

Mar 6 (6-9PM) – Effective Social Media at the Post Level

Mar 8 (9AM-Noon) – Adjutant Course

Mar 8 (9AM-Noon) – County Commander Course

Mar 12-13 (6-9PM both evenings) – The Basic Course

Mar 15 (9AM-Noon) – Effective Social Media at the Post Level

Mar 19 (6-9PM) – Generational Leadership Issues at the Post Level

Mar 19 (6-9PM) – Adjutant Course

Mar 20 (6-9PM) – Public Relations for the Local Legion Family

Mar 22-23 (9AM – Noon both days) – The Basic Course

Mar 25 (6-9PM) – County Commander Course

Mar 27 (6-9PM) – Mylegion.org Course

Apr 2 (6-9PM) – Consolidated Post Report Course

Apr 5 (9AM to Noon) – Post Commander Course

Those taking the Basic Course can take the Intermediate Course in April and the Advanced Course in May. And yes, Legion Family members from other Departments are welcome to attend. Sign-up at [www.wilegion.org/legion-college](http://www.wilegion.org/legion-college)

**NOTE: Although the courses are free to those who enroll, the College does pay a fee for each enrollment made on Eventbrite. Please make every effort to attend the courses you sign up for. If you miss the first offering of a course, you can then sign up for the second one, or simply contact the Dean at [wilegioncollege@gmail.com](mailto:wilegioncollege@gmail.com). Questions at the same email address, or call the Dean at 414-899-4067.**





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

Warm February Greetings Third District,

“Last four?” “What’s your last four?” A question that is asked of veterans receiving care at the William S. Middleton Veterans Memorial Hospital in Madison; the answer to “What’s your last four?” is the veteran’s last four numbers of their social security number.

I first met “T” while he was an in-patient at the VA and I was a volunteer visiting the in-patients pushing the activity cart going from room to room saying “Hello, I’m with the American Legion Auxiliary, would you like a visit, I have plenty items on the activity cart you might like. “T” wasn’t interested in any of the items but would like a visit, as he was from out of state and didn’t receive many visitors. “T”’s request was just a visit, a chance to converse with someone besides the staff. So, for the next six weeks I would visit “T” and after a while he asked me one day if he could tell me of his time in Vietnam, as his wife didn’t want to listen to his memories. Each Tuesday morning, I would listen as “T” spoke of the rural villages, the women and children, the constant heat, humidity or the endless rain, the constant “being on guard” for the enemy, the Black Mountain, and finally of the close brotherhood of soldiers looking out for each other, the brotherhood he still missed. After “T” spoke of his experiences, he spoke of the guilt he felt, his sorrow, remorse and of his depression. T. hoped that God would forgive him for all his wrong doings; I reassured “T” that God had indeed forgiven him. On my last visit, “T” greeted me with a smile on his face and his spirits lifted as he showed me the valentines he received from Auxiliary members. As I left his room pushing the activity cart down the hall, I thought to myself, “T” you are so much more than your last four.”

1964-1975

For us it was the six o’clock news,

For them it was reality.

We called for pizza,

They called for medics.

We watched the children,

They watched children die.

We learned of life,

They learned of death.

We served dinner,

They served their country.

Our passion was success,

Theirs was survival.

We forgot,

They can’t.

-Author Unknown

Over the years many ALA members hand wrote personal messages inside valentines to be distributed to the veterans at various VA health care facilities. I'm sharing with you a response from a veteran that received a valentine upon entering the William S. Middleton Veterans Memorial Hospital. *"Dear Auxiliary Unit 360 (Waunakee), for us veterans who are seniors, living alone and due to PTSD don't mingle. It is easy to feel lonely and blue over any holiday. I was feeling like that today when cards and flowers were seeming to be had by so many, but not me. On my way to a VA appointment, I passed the information desk where this card made its way into my hands and heart with the beautiful lily on the front. I got my flowers! With the caring message inside. I felt less alone in the world. I smiled all day and I'm still smiling. Thank you for remembering us. We appreciate you. I know I do!"*

*Sincerely,*

*Lin, Army Nurse 1970 – 1978*

It is amazing what a greeting card can do to lift one's spirits. This Valentine's Day buy an extra card or two and send or hand deliver to a veteran, letting them know we haven't forgotten them and their service to our great country. I wish all of America would know of the many miracles the ALA members provide by just one card.

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.

**Items needed at Madison VA:** Diaper rash cream, diapers sizes from newborn to size 4, children's clothing from size newborn to 6 months, Nosefrida (Nasal Aspirator).



Say a special prayer for Past Department Presidents: Diane Weggen and Linda Coppock as they recover from their recent surgeries. Diane's surgery went well but she experienced complications from the anesthesia. Linda's knee replacement went well and is in PT. Pray for a full and fast recovery for them both.



## **Membership**

**Shelley and Nicole**

Happy New Years Greetings to All,

With the New Year here, let us all make a resolution to do our best to renew and garner new members, as members let us do our best to pay our dues so we can continue to fund our veterans' programs. It is tiresome and costly to continue contacting our members for dues. With so many easy ways to continue your membership I hope you look into getting your dues paid. Payments excepted online for renewing members, bring a check to you Unit meeting, send your renewal to your membership chair.

Unit presidents, help your membership chairs, share their information, address, phone and email. Members have questions and no contact information. Presidents and Membership chairs do not hold onto checks for any reason. National will be sending out another mailing in the next few weeks, if you have paid recently, you may still receive a renewal notice. Of course disregard if you have paid.

TO ALL, When contacted by phone, email, snail mail, or divine intervention, RESPOND. Please respond in a timely manner, we are waiting to hear from you regarding the future of your Unit. Your voice matters, pick up, call back, but somehow reach out to let your unit know where you stand as a member. We unfortunately have several Units in this district that may disband, Reach out, get active, save your Unit!!!

God bless our Veterans, our Troops and our Volunteers

Shelley and Nicole



Third District Poppy Program news:

It is way too early to order and plant spring and summer flowers for our gardens; but the American Legion Auxiliary members before us planted the seeds of the Poppy Program with its beginning in 1920. The poppy is the official flower of the American Legion Family. The red color of the poppy symbolizes the blood shed of the soldiers during World War 1.

Each year the weekend before Memorial Day, members of the American Legion Auxiliary distribute poppies with the hope each person passing by the poppy display will donate and wear the poppy long after Memorial Day. All donations received go to the Auxiliary's programs that benefit/provide our nation's veterans, active and military families. 20 percent of the net profits of each Unit's are to be sent to the Department for the Department's Children & Youth and VA&R programs.

Poppies can only be made by Veterans. If you or know of a veteran or perhaps a Post that is willing to make poppies, please contact Poppy Shop Supervisor, Sue Hembrook at (262) 843-4791 or (262) 945-9791.

## Food around Third District

Send your information to [syftes@chorus.net](mailto:syftes@chorus.net)

Post 59 Stoughton	has a weekly meat raffle every Saturday starting at 2 pm
SAL Squadron 501	February 8 – Pancake and Sausage Breakfast
Post 385 Verona	February 12 - Spaghetti Dinner 4:30pm – 6:30pm
Post 84 Monroe	BINGO – Feb 23, Mar 23, April 27
Post 360 Waunakee	Fish Fry – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday
Post 214 Darlington	February 15 - Steak Feed
Post 385 Verona	March 17 - CBC Dinner 4:30pm – 6:30pm
Post 385 Verona	April 9 – Smoked Pork Chops Dinner 4:30pm – 6:30pm
Post 385 Verona	May 14 – Cook's Choice Dinner 4:30pm – 6:30pm
Post 385 Verona	February 12 - Spaghetti Dinner 4:30pm – 6:30pm

**Post 84 – Monroe – BINGO Feb 23, Mar 23, April 27**