



THE INFORMER

OCTOBER , 2024

September 24 - DEC Mineral Point Legion Post. Meeting at 7pm
October 19 - Fall Conference Verona Legion Post
(Included in this issue luncheon reservation form for Fall Conference)
November 26 - DEC Barneveld Legion Post. Meeting at 7pm
January 2025 - Mid-Winters in Appleton
February 15 - District Holiday Party - Barneveld Legion Post

March 25 - DEC Mineral Point Legion Post. Meeting at 7pm
May 3 - 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
We are working on scheduling the District Oratorical Contest



Dan O'Brien – 3rd District Commander

Hello to the 3rd District. I want to start this letter with a note about a 3rd District Member we all lost and that was Mick McCormick. I could not make his funeral since I was at The American Legion National Convention, but I heard there was a tremendous amount of turnout for the wake and funeral. The Community, the organizations that he belonged to and our American Legion. Mick was a go getter for the Legion, and I remember him and Steve Fitzsimons going back and forth about who was going to win the County Membership Award. You always knew that Mick was in the room, and he made it interesting, and he did it with fun and vigor. He will be missed.

I was at The American Legion National Convention, and it was my first one and it may be one that will be hard to top. We had great guest speakers with 3 of them being Medal of Honor Winners. It makes you feel very humble right away. Vice Commander Jerry sent out links for some of the speakers and I did forward this onto all of you and I do recommend that you take the time to watch them.

I found out at the convention that The American Legion surpassed its goal in Membership in 2023/2024. We are at 100% Membership. Can anyone remember the last time we as Legion Members could say that. It is ironic that National Commander Dan Seehafer did not push Membership during his tenure as Commander. He talked more about Buddy Checks, Changing Lives and Saving Lives, being relevant and having a purpose. BEING THE ONE. This is a strong message that is going to be continued by our New National Commander James LaCoursiere Jr. As he said at the convention, keep doing what is working.

Did you know the "Buddy Checks" program was initiated by PNC Denise Rohan of our 3rd District during her term and officially became a program of The American Legion the following year. One of the best programs The American Legion has brought to the forefront in many years and was really highlighted by Commander Seehafer during his term. If we continue to step up our work with Buddy Checks, we will see a difference and make a difference. It will help our American Legion grow because we are talking about the good things we do and how we are affecting lives.

You will be hearing about my 4 Goals during my 2-year term as your Commander and they all fall in line with "Buddy Checks.

1. Communication-We need to make sure we are communicating with all our Membership. If you have 100 members in your Post and you have 15 that show up for a meeting, how is the information from your meeting get to the other 85 members of your Post. Does the communication at the meeting stop at the meeting and does not reach the other 85 members. If that is the case then we can take a line from the movie Cool Hand Luke, "We have a failure to Communicate". I am not saying that all Posts fall into that category, but if you do, how do you improve communication? Start now and form a team of your members that will work to get as many phone #'s and email addresses as you can. Then get a team that will make "Buddy Checks" and let your Membership know of the good things you are doing and the events you have coming up. An informed Post Membership will be an active Post Membership.
2. Involvement-Starts with what was just pointed out under communication. Make members aware of what your Post is doing and it's Up Coming Events. Remind them of your Post meetings and ask if they may need a ride.

Make a difference. The number of people showing up for these things will improve. This will work when you are looking for help. Don't always count on the same people to always carry the load for the whole Post. We are a Legion Family so we should all have some ownership.

3. Visibility-Make your Post visible in your community. When you are holding an event, make sure the Community knows that it is The American Legion and your Post doing it. Have signs, wear Legion gear (shirts, hats, caps) whatever makes you stand out as an American Legion Member and Post member.
4. Accountability-If you are doing the above 3 items then you are off to a good start to being an accountable Legion Member and Post Member.

We have our 3rd District Fall Conference coming up on Saturday October 19th at the Verona Legion Post. Information will be coming out in the Informer on getting your reservations in. We will have National Vice Commander Roger Mathison and State Vice Commander Jerry Hooks as guests. I have put the word out a couple of times, but we will be having some good training on the Legion Home Pages and MyLegion. This is something I know I need, and I think it will be beneficial to all the Posts. This will be a Good time for questions and getting to feel comfortable about working within the Legion computer system. Bring a laptop if you have one or a notepad to write down what we will be learning. Looking forward to this training session.

National Vice Commander Roger Mathison will be back in our 3rd District to visit Posts. He will be here from November 6th through the 8th. An itinerary is being set up and once it is completed, it will be sent out to the 3rd District.



Pictured is State Vice Commander Jerry Hook receiving an award for the 3rd District being a 100% District for 2023-2024. Pictured from left are: PNC Denise Rohan who presented the award on behalf of Past National Commander Dan Seehafer, State Vice Commander Jerry Hook and 3rd District Commander Dan O'Brien

Chaplains Corner



Chaplain Virgil Smith
Past Department Chaplain
3rd District Chaplain / Dane County Chaplain

Greetings 3rd District Family, as I sat here behind my keyboard asking myself what I should write about, the word leadership came to mind. Webster defines a leader as, "A person or thing that leads as a guide, to guide or conduct by going with or ahead of, or by teaching, or showing or commanding others." Now that we know what Webster's definition of leadership is, let us look at what scripture has to say about leadership. Listed below are six scriptures that come to mind. After each scripture is a brief statement for us to ponder.

Proverbs 12:24 Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and become a slave.

What me a leader you must be kidding, yes you. If you have any influence on anyone you are a leader. What can you do today to become a better leader?

Hebrews 13:7 Remember your leaders who first taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives and trust the Lord as they do.

Make a list of those who have made an enormous difference in your life. What about those leaders do you want to imitate?

John 15:16; You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.

Let us do a little math here, say you have two children, and they grow up and get married and each of them have two children and this trend continues for the next four hundred years you will have one million members in your family tree. What aspect of your life will remain in them?

1 Peter 5:3 Do not lord over the people assigned to your care but lead them by your own good example.

You may not consider yourself a leader but that is what God is making you. He wants to use us to help others by our own good example, which is what a leader is. Who is learning from your example? What are they learning?

1 Thessalonians 5:14 We urge you, brothers, (sisters) to warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

You get the picture; we need to take a great interest in others. Who in your life may need a warning, a word of encouragement, or a helping hand?

Philippians 4:9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me; put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

God has called you to follow His example if you do you will in return set the example for others. What in your life is worth following?

In closing I want to leave you with a final question, for you to ponder when leading others. What kind of legacy spiritually or otherwise will you leave your family, your friends and those you lead? May God bless you and keep you, may His face shine upon you and give you peace.



3rd District Fall Conference

Everyone is Invited

When: Saturday October 19, 2024

Where: Verona Post 385

207 Legion Street, Verona

Please Join us

Registration at 0800 Meeting starts at 0900

Coffee & Doughnuts will be available for a donation. Meeting at 9am Pay registration fee day of Conference.

Registration Fee \$5 / Lunch cost: \$10.00 / Lunch reservation deadline: **Saturday October 5, 2024**

Lunch Menu: Pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, assorted salads, chips, coffee, water, milk and dessert.

RSVP to Jenni Syftestad

Detach and mail to

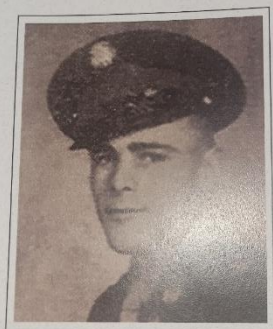
American Legion Post 385

207 Legion Street, Verona, WI 53593

Lunch reservations are due by **October 5, 2024**. Make check payable to: A L Auxiliary Unit 385

Post # _____ Name: _____ Number of Lunches reserved: _____

*****Do NOT send registration fee***** Pick up lunch tickets the day of the conference at the registration table



In Loving Memory Of
Cpl. Robert P. Raess

November 11, 1928 ~ September 1, 1950

U.S. Army Cpl. Robert P. Raess, 21, of Dodgeville, Wisconsin, reported missing in action during the Korean War, was accounted for March 26, 2024.

In late 1950, Raess was a member of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Sept. 1, 1950, near Changnyeong, South Korea. The Army officially declared Raess deceased on Dec. 31, 1953, and declared his remains non-recoverable Jan. 16, 1956.

In Jan. 1951, the **American Graves Registration Service Group (AGRSG)** consolidated the remains from 12 smaller military cemeteries at the newly established United Nations Military Cemetery in Tanggok, South Korea, including one set of remains designated X-1578 Tanggok, which had been recovered from the area where Raess was last seen. In 1956, the remains, including X-1578 Tanggok, were unable to be identified, and then transported to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu where they were buried as Unknowns.

In July 2018, the Department of Defense (DoD) approved a plan to disinter 652 Korean War Unknowns from the NMPC across various phases. On April 19, 2021, the remains of X-1578 Tanggok were disinterred and sent to the DPAA Laboratory as part of Phase 3.

Robert was born on November 26, 1928 to John and Alice Raess, who immigrated to the United States of America from Switzerland. Robert graduated from Dodgeville High School.

He served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

Robert's sole surviving sibling Mary Alice Jackson, of Wamic, Oregon is able to bring him home to rest near his parents in Dodgeville, WI. He will join his brothers John and Paul and sisters Ida Mae Raess and Eleanor Janssen.

Robert is survived by his sister Mary Alice Jackson; his nieces and nephews, including the Raess family from Darlington, WI, the Janssen and Raess families from Dodgeville, WI and the Jackson family from Portland, Oregon.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 7, 2024 at ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH in Dodgeville.

Full Military Graveside Honors will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 7, 2024 at ST. JOSEPH'S CEMETERY.



Lafayette County Government Day will be held November 13th at the courthouse. This does not require any legion volunteers, however a presence at the Legion building is nice, plus you get a free lunch out of the deal. This will be held at the courthouse from 8am-12pm, then from Legion Post 214 from 12pm-3pm(ish). If you are interested in hanging out during that time then you are totally welcome.

Veteran Museum Trip (Downtown Madison): The next museum trip will be held on Wednesday October 23th. We will meet at the Dodgeville Walmart at 8:50, bus will depart at 9, arrive at museum at 10, guided tour from 10-12, buffet lunch from 12:30-2 (ish), and finally arrive back at the Dodgeville Walmart at 2:30/3. Please put this information out at your next meeting. If you would like to attend, please call my office at 608 776 4886 so I can put you on the list.

Samuel J Fuller
County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO)
Lafayette County WI
608 776 4886

SNAPSHOTS FROM PICNIC







Noreen Schmidt – 3rd District President

Greetings 3rd District Members,

Making Potato Salad. Tuesday is the best day of the week for me as on Tuesday I volunteer at the William S. Middleton Veterans Hospital in Madison. I make the rounds with a cart full of various items the veterans might be interested in, such as puzzle books, airplane and car models, notepads, backscratchers and most importantly handmade quilts. The veterans are very thankful for the items offered but most of the time they just want to visit. I'll ask each veteran if they belong to the American Legion and often, they say with pride "yes I am, in fact I was Post Commander or I am the Commander of Post #." If a caregiver is in the room, I'll ask "and are you a member of the American Legion Auxiliary?" I am surprised to hear "no I'm not interested, or I don't have the time." Last week a caregiver's reply was "no, because all the Auxiliary does is make potato salad for the Legion's fundraiser dinners and I want to do more than just making potato salad."

Since becoming Third District President, I have heard "our Unit just isn't very active anymore as we are all getting old, and I feel sad because the Auxiliary means a lot to me."

Clearly, we as members of the American Legion Auxiliary need to get the word out that the Auxiliary does more than just make potato salad. If a person enjoys sewing, they can sew "quilts of valor", wheelchair bags, shopping bags (needed at King only), American Legion Honor Guard Snap Bags. Not interested in sewing, tying fleece blankets or how about clipping coupons for the active military families overseas; folding pocket flags and putting care packages together for our active military. The easiest and very rewarding is sending holiday greeting cards to the veterans at the various health care facilities; Happy Birthday cards are appreciated, cards and letters written to the veterans on their trip with the Badger Honor Flight, Lone Eagle and Veterans Roll. There are so many ways that the Auxiliary is also very active in the community, just one activity can spark the interest in an eligible person.

Senior members that no longer drive after dark can still get together during the daylight hours and work at the various activities listed. We as members all play a very important role in keeping the American Legion Auxiliary alive and as important as ever. Always keep on hand and ready to give out the membership application to anyone who is interested. And let's not forget our senior members, as they have a whole rich history to share in the making of a much-loved Unit.

At the picnic it was stated that our District flag bag is very cumbersome. It's a long vinyl sleeve that has to have the eagles taken off after each use and stored in a box within the bag. Motion was made and passed to ask each unit for a donation toward the purchase of two new bags. Your donation can be whatever your unit would like to donate. Make checks payable to ALA third district and mail to Shannon Churchill – 149 Paoli Street – Verona WI 53593. The color bearers say Thank You!

Many thanks to Third District Commander O'Brien for coordinating a very successful family picnic held on September 8th at Darlington Park; the weather was sunny, and the potluck was delicious; but most importantly, 70 members from the Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Legion Riders were in attendance. So, Mark your calendar for the Third District's Holiday party being held in Barneveld on February 15, 2025. Third District 2025 Conference being held in Monroe on May 5, 2025.

Always remember the Auxiliary's mission statement, **In the spirit of Service Not Self.**

Message from Department Legislative Chairman – Maggie Geiger

We need you to send a message to congress letting them know that we demand our veterans should receive their compensations in October!

Please see attached message, click on “**here**” on the bottom of the Advocacy Alert, it will take you into the Grassroots Action Center. Click on Fix the VA Funding Shortfall. You will be asked several questions, once your information is registered, a letter will be sent to your congressman.

While you are on the page consider contacting your congressman to act on other crucial bills, that are up for consideration.

We need to send as many letters as possible to congress, they must act on the VA Shortfall, before they recess, our veterans are depending on us.

If you have any questions please contact me, 262-377-0329

Maggie Geiger Dept Legislative Chairmen



Membership Shelley and Nicole

Greeting 3rd District, We Have A Pulse..... Let's keep it beating STRONG AND STEADY... Looking good for only the middle of September. Some of us stronger than others. How can that be? Well, let's share our techniques with each other. For me, its continued conversation about the Legion Family and what we are doing, not only for the Veterans but for the Community these people live in. Branding is the key to success. Let everyone know what you are doing as a group, and as individuals. People want to belong to something that is active and enjoyable. Post your upcoming events, post your neighbors events in the AL Family, we are one big happy group. Support each other.

Nicole and I will be reaching out to our Units to see if they need us in anyway. If by chance you don't hear from us, please, contact us.

Also please fill out your member officers' forms, and the ALA MIS. Both are needed at Dept. Many questions can be answered quickly by having your Unit enrolled. Easy access to all your membership needs.

God Bless Our Veterans, our military, and our volunteers.

Items needed to re-stock the VA food pantry

- Cooked pasta pouches. No dry.
- Cooked rice pouches. No dry.
- Mashed potato pouches. No boxes.
- Canned chicken or chicken in pouches.
- Canned salmon or salmon in pouches.
- Canned vegetables that are NOT green and NOT corn.
 - Carrots
 - Beets
 - Yams
 - Mixed Vegetables
- Canned fruits or other prepackaged fruits in plastic single serve containers like applesauce.
- Whole grain sugar free or low sugar cereals like Kashi or cheerios



Seán Patchin - SAL 3rd District Commander

Our Fall Conference is coming up soon on Friday, October 18, at the Legion Hall in Verona, beginning at 7 PM. We will be voting on three proposed amendments to our District Constitution & By-Laws: one dealing with language in our current document, such as removing references to county entities as they're not recognized by Detachment, one dealing with the procedure for dealing with complaints regarding the SAL 3rd District Commander, and one dealing with the dress code for District officers. I will also be presenting squadron membership awards there for the 2024 membership year. This is important for your squadron to receive recognition in front of the other squadrons for your achievements. It's also important to have a photo to publish in the Badger Legionnaire so Third District Sons can receive recognition. Your achievements reflect great credit on Third District. Let's get the word out!

Likewise, if you're squadron did something special – let's get a photo and article to the Badger Legionnaire. If you don't know where to send it or need help with writing an article, send me the photo and basics; I'll put it together and send it up. Then keep records of this for your Consolidated Squadron Report. This is why I'm asking to be informed of donations your squadron is making (or has recently made) to the Detachment of Wisconsin's A.L.F. Dog program. The A.L.F. Dog program provides a stuffed dog to children of deploying troops in Wisconsin.

Let me know of any events going on where I (and/or one of our District Vice-Commanders) could join you and, perhaps, fly our District flag.