

3rd DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER

THE INFORMER

APRIL - 2024

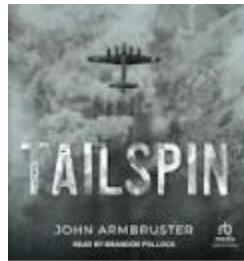


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Comrades;

March 29th is Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Day. Thank you to all our Vietnam Veterans and Welcome Home. Please make sure we publicize this on Facebook, in the papers, etc.... This is a great way to thank our Vietnam Veterans on a day that is set aside for them each year.

The 3rd District Spring Conference is April 20th in Fennimore. This is an election year which means it is even more important to come out for the camaraderie, as well as to vote for your new District leaders. I'm very excited to announce that John Armbruster, the author of Tailspin is going to present. He will sell and sign books there as well.



American Legion Family Day April 27th, 2024

April 27th is American Legion Day. We are encouraging all Legion Family organizations to have an event, showcase the great things that you are doing in your communities every day. Please see the list of suggestions later in the newsletter.

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, Verona, Platteville, 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 but Dane County and LaFayette County are right on Grant County's heels.

How do we recruit and retain members – we need to be active, relevant, and visible

- Host a coffee or breakfast for Veterans,
- Go out to eat at a local restaurant once a week or once a month, wear your Legion polos and take membership forms along
- Sponsor scholarships for youth in the community

- Volunteer, donate, or establish a food pantry
- Talk to Veterans in your community when you are out, Veteran license plates or Veteran hat or jacket, strike up a conversation
- Have the Mission Impact Statements with you or take a picture of it and have it on your phone
- Ask the CVSO Office if you can publicize a Veteran event in your community if you provide the flyers, envelopes and stamps. The CVSO may not be able to give you the addresses but they may be willing to send a flyer out for your event if you provide the supplies.
- Publish articles in the paper or post to Facebook with content – information that is valuable for Veterans – ie - VA Healthcare Eligibility Expansion, Wisconsin law change to pay college tuition up front for Guard Members instead of reimbursing them after the semester ends, etc.

1. Buddy Checks

Buddy Check are so important. Buddy Checks if done correctly, show our members that we care, we're not just here to ask them for their dues, building those connections is critical.

2. Contact Non renewed and 2930 members. Have the Mission Impact Statement / CPR / information from your Post (know what your Post does so that you can tell people when they ask what you do

- **First option** – visit the Veterans to talk to them – **best option**
- **Option two** – Call the Veteran
- **Option three** – Write the Veteran a letter and ask them to contact you
- **Option Four** – Email the Veteran and let them know that you would like to talk to them about joining your Post

Upcoming Events:

Spring Conference – 20 April, Fennimore American Legion Post

Of the Year Awards due to District by 1 April

Department Important dates:

- WALLECA Application dates: January 2, 2024- March 29, 2024
- Department Oratorical: March 23, 2024 at Ripon College
- Awards Due to Department: May 1st
- Americanism June 1st
- Department Spring Meetings: May 10-11, 2024
- Annual Reports: June 1st
- Badger Boys State: June 9-15, 2024 at UW Eau Claire
- Department Convention: July 10-14, 2024 in Appleton



VETERAN URGENT CARE RESOURCES



Veterans enrolled in VA health care can use over 4,000 urgent care locations.

Care is available to treat non-life threatening conditions.

When to choose VA urgent care:

- If you're a Veteran enrolled in VA health care, and
- You received care at a VA or in-network provider sometime in the past 24 months.
- VA and in-network urgent care providers can meet many of your health care needs. They may be able to provide some diagnostic tests, like certain blood and urine tests.
- You can often get care for minor illnesses or injuries much faster than in an emergency room.



When using urgent care at a community provider:

You can also show the card on your mobile device.

What do to when you arrive at a community urgent care provider:

- Confirm that the provider is in VA's network. If you go to an out-of-network urgent care provider, you may have to pay for the full cost of care.
- Show your VA Health Identification Card and fill out the provider's intake form.
- Tell the provider you want to use your VA urgent care benefit. Show the provider your urgent care assistance card if requested.



Do you need help using your VA urgent care benefits?

Call 888-901-6609 if the provider is in Puerto Rico, Washington, D.C., or any of these states:

- AL, AR, CT, DE, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, VA, VI, VT, WI, or WV.

Call 866-620-2071 if the provider is in any of these states:

- AK, AS, AZ, CA, CO, GU, HI, ID, MP, MT, NM, NV, OR, TX, UT, WA, or WY.
- Your region listed on the card to check your eligibility.



CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY!

FIRST, CALL:
1-800-MyVA411
(1-800-698-2411)
(TTY: 711).

SELECT:

OPTION 1

THEN

OPTION 3

AND THEN

OPTION 1

Family members are not authorized to use urgent care benefits.



DOWNLOAD VA URGENT CARE BILLING INFORMATION CARD

<https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/docs/programs/OCC-Billing-Information-Card.pdf>



FIND VA-APPROVED PROVIDERS AND PHARMACIES

<https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

Choosing VA means getting everything you need in one spot. Learn more about VA urgent care, eligibility requirements and examples of urgent care services by visiting VA's dedicated urgent care benefit page at <https://www.va.gov/resources/getting-urgent-care-at-va-or-in-network-community-providers/>.

FREE CHOW FOR VIETNAM VETS

National Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29

Thanks For Your Service, Vietnam Veterans.
When your country called, you answered.
You are Our Heroes every day! Please enjoy
a **FREE Sandwich** with our gratitude.



Know a Vietnam Veteran or a Vietnam Era Veteran?
Bring them in for a FREE sandwich



THE UNITED STATES
AIR FORCE BAND
WASHINGTON, DC

CONCERT BAND
AND
SINGING SERGEANTS

Colonel John Schopfield
- COMMANDER AND CONDUCTOR -

Saturday, Apr. 13 at 7 p.m.

Sun Prairie East Performing Arts Center
888 Grove Street
Sun Prairie, WI



For information on FREE tickets please go to usairforceband.com or call 608-478-1725



American Legion Family Day



April 27, 2024

What are some ideas for Legion Family Day –

- Open House – share the Legion Family story
- Community Service Event for a Veteran or Veterans in need
- Bring the community together to do something for homebound Veterans and families
- Hold a Be the One 2.2 Mile walk that ends at your Legion
- Hold a presentation on Preventing Veteran as well as all suicide
- Community pantry drive
- Community park spring clean up day (grill out in the park)
- Purple Up! For the month of military children; wear purple family event
- Host blood drive



SPRING CONFERENCE BASKET RAFFLE – HOMELESS FEMALE VETERANS FUND

LISA BOWEN

Hey everyone, The Third District Officers are extremely excited about the upcoming Spring Conference. In honor of our beloved past president, Florence Wasley, we are holding a basket raffle to raise funds for the Homeless Women Veteran Grant Fund. Florence started this fund during her Department Presidency in 2011. Please join us in honoring Florence by making this fundraiser a big success! There is no limit to the great ideas for these baskets! Will you help us with a basket or two?

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The nomination committee co-chairmen are looking for 2024-26 candidates and nominations for all district offices. All current and past county and district officers are part of the nomination committee and are encouraged to nominate candidates for all offices. Please consider those members around you that have leadership, membership and administrative qualities. Please encourage them to take the district 3 journey.

SPRING CONFERENCE to DEPARTMENT CONVENTION TRIFOLD

Our district is asked to make a trifold display for Department Convention! Ideally, the D3 display will include your favorite 2023-24 Unit events and activities. Please make a second copy of one of your Unit's favorite events or activity OR make your favorite event/activity removable from your Unit display. District officers would like to collect these event/activity items at Spring Conference. Let's showcase your amazing Unit activities and events on our District 3 trifold!!

SPRING CONFERENCE

Our Spring Conference will be held APRIL 20TH at the Fennimore American Legion Post. The registration form is included in this month's newsletter. Please have your reservation in by April 6th.

The 2024 Spring Conference will be action packed with great food, fantastic guest speakers, an election and basket raffle honoring our Past Department President, Florence Wasley. Our plan is to honor Florence by contributing to her President's Project, Homeless Women Veterans Grant Fund. 100% of the spring conference basket raffle earnings will go to this project.

We are once again asking Units to make display boards filled with your 2023-24 events and activities. Examples of these displays were presented by our District Vice Presidents, and Unit Presidents, Lisa Bowen and Shelley Drager at our February meeting in Verona. The display board is the tri-fold science fair boards that are available at Dollar Tree, Walmart,

Target and on Amazon. Units are encouraged to display photos, newspaper clippings, screen shots from online, etc. to share your success and possibly get other Units doing what your Unit is doing! Units will be asked to discuss their display with members during scheduled share times at Spring Conference!! This method of reporting will create an opportunity for members to mix and mingle so that we meet each other and share our activities. Please don't hesitate to ask your district officers for assistance!!

APRIL EVENTS

APRIL 5TH – GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY

APRIL 9TH – NATIONAL FORMER POW RECOGNITION DAY

APRIL 14TH – AIRFORCE RESERVE BIRTHDAY

APRIL 15TH – PURPLE UP! DAY

APRIL 23RD – ARMY RESERVE BIRTHDAY

APRIL 30TH – NATIONAL MILITARY BRATS DAY

GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY

April 5th is a day of recognition for the sacrifices made by military spouses and remembrance for the fallen. It is also a day to appreciate those who are sometimes in danger of being overlooked for their support and service to the country. When Blue Stars turn Gold, families are grieving the loss of their loved one and their world turns upside down. The Gold Star Organization attempts to support the spouses in grief, separation from the military lifestyle and the long-term repercussions. The Gold Star Spouses Organization provides resources for the spouses and service families, this organization can be found at goldstarspousesusa.com. Observing this day can be as simple hosting a fundraiser or attending a memorial service.

Suggested activities: Hold a special memorial service at your Post or Gold Star Memorial Park; make Gold Stars with the service member's name and ask for sponsors at a local restaurant or business then send donations to military spouse organizations. Host Gold Star crafts or events at the library, schools, Legion Post or memorial parks. Support the Gold Star families living in your communities with minor house and yard chores. Deliver groceries or a certificate for dinner out.

NATIONAL FORMER POW RECOGNITION DAY

Former POW identifies with service members who have survived and returned home after being held as a Prisoner of War. We may know the famous and former POWs such as Senators Bob Dole and John McCain, but there are and were more service members who didn't share the limelight. President Ronald Reagan signed into law a day of observation to honor those service members who were held captive & likely tortured during war times. We honor more than 500,000 warriors captured while protecting our way of life. Their unwavering and unrelenting spirit is worthy of tribute.

Suggested activities: Bring awareness to this day of recognition by flying the POW/MIA Flag; host a POW/MIA ceremony with the community at your Post or meeting place; submit a newspaper article or use social media to promote this national day; pay respects to POW/MIA veterans buried in your local cemeteries. You can learn more and find recipients by visiting the Home of Heroes website: <https://homeofheroes.com/medal-of-honor/>

AIRFORCE RESERVE BIRTHDAY

Suggested activities: Host an aerial or flight themed birthday party with your Post family, invite local schools to create & send mail call letters & birthday cards to Airforce Reserve bases with your coupons; shine a special light color on the Airforce portion of your Veterans Memorial to highlight their service and memory; post pictures and stories of your Airforce Reserve veterans in local libraries, schools, newspapers or social media pages, host a plane making or model kit assembly event to display at the library, school or Post.

PURPLE UP! DAY

Purple Up! is a day to recognize military children for their bravery, flexibility and courage while enduring countless parental deployments, relocations, school changes and more. It's purple because of the mixture of military branch colors. So, it's time to discuss budget, strategy and activities to observe Purple Up! Day with military children in your extended Legion family or children of reserve and guards in your local school. Simply contact the school administration to find out how many children, their ages, and if you could deliver activity packs, greeting cards with gift cards or pencil pouches with star spangle kids, I Spy or Junior member and SAL info. Our Wisconsin National Security Chairman has posted a printable Purple Up! Day cards for Units to send to the children of active-duty Reserves/Guards and full time Military with gift cards, activity packs or pencil pouches, etc. The card can be printed from the department website (<https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/nationalsecurity> > under Resources).

Suggested activities: Assemble activity packs; comfort packages; pencil pouches; thank you or Purple Up cards with gift cards; work with your local military bases or armories to host a family friendly event; assist Guard/Reserve families near you with everyday chores or simple acts of kindness.

ARMY RESERVE BIRTHDAY

Suggested activities: Host an Army themed birthday party with your Post family, invite local schools to create & send mail call letters & birthday cards to Army Reserve bases with your coupons; highlight the Army on your Veterans Memorial; post pictures and stories of your Army Reserve veterans in local libraries, schools, newspapers or social media pages; host a run/walk event with the Army or US theme; host an obstacle course competition; hand out Army figurines to students, Juniors or SAL and have them take selfies with the Army figurine at various locations in your communities to post on your Unit or Post social media.

APRIL PROGRAM DEADLINES & REPORTING

ALA BADGER GIRLS STATE

- April 1st: Registration deadline for Delegates and Alternates.
- April 15th: Submit ALABGS year-end Unit Narrative Report.
- April 15th: Last day to request full refund of sponsor reservation fee.

AMERICANISM

- April 1st: Submit Americanism Award Cover Sheet with narrative for Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program to the Department Chairman.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

- April 1st: Submit Children & Youth Award Cover Sheet with narrative for judging as Most Outstanding Unit Children & Youth Program to the Department Chairman.

JUNIORS

- April 1: Submit Most Outstanding Unit Junior Program to the department program chairman.
- April 15: Unit year-end reports due to Department Chairman

LEADERSHIP

- April 1: Submit Most Outstanding Unit Leadership Program with the National Award Cover sheet to the department program chairman.

LEGISLATION

- April 1st: Submit Legislative Award Cover Sheet with narrative for judging as Most Outstanding Unit Legislative Program to the Department Chairman.

NATIONAL SECURITY

- April 1: Submit Most Outstanding Unit National Security Program.

POPPY

- April 1st: Deadline for Most Outstanding Unit Poppy Program for Central Division.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

- April 1st: Deadline for Most Outstanding Unit Public Relations Program for Central Division.

VA&R

- April 1st: Submit Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Award Cover Sheet with narrative for judging as Most Outstanding Unit Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Program to the Department Chairman.

Third District American Legion Auxiliary Leaders,

Please apply for the ***Third District ALA Leadership Award*** by **March 24, 2024**.

The Endres-Pulvermacher-Ryan Leadership Award will be presented at the 2024 Third District Conference, scheduled on April 20, 2024 in Fennimore. Please consider applying today!

To apply, please complete this application.

American Legion Auxiliary ~ Third District 2023-2024 Endres-Pulvermacher-Ryan Leadership Award

First/Last Name: _____ **Unit#** _____

1. How long have you been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary? _____
2. Who or What is a leader? Define effective Leadership. (Describe in 200 words or less), *please attach your essay to this page.*
3. Describe your leadership style:
4. What qualities or attributes do you consider necessary for a leader to possess, to assure others will join in the effort and move a project forward to a successful conclusion?
5. What makes you successful in gaining support and engagement from others to help work through a project to a successful completion?
6. Choose three of the following words that you feel exemplify the character of a good to great leader and meet your own requirements:
communication, motivation, delegation, positivity, trustworthiness, creativity, feedback, responsibility, commitment, flexibility, vision, conviction, confidence, accountability, ownership, passion, inspiring others, listening, valuing others
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
7. List Leadership Round-Table, Department Leadership and ALA In the Know, National Mission Training and on-line ALA On-Line Academy courses and other related leadership training sessions you have completed?

Return this page and attach your Question 2 Essay by **March 24, 2024** to:

Joyce Endres, 1147 Fleetwood Ave., Madison WI 53716-1417

or e-mail to: ljendres@charter.net

American Legion
Child Welfare Foundation



Thanks to the support of generous donors like you, The American Legion can continue to provide much-needed assistance to disabled veterans, U.S. military families with children at home who are facing unexpected financial hardships, troops recovering from wounds and illnesses and the children of fallen troops and disabled veterans.

Here are just a few ways your donation can make a life-changing difference for a hero in need:

- Supply wounded warriors with comfort items during recovery
- Grant scholarships to children whose parents died on active-duty or incurred a 50-percent VA disability since Sept. 11, 2001
- Cover necessary household costs for military families in need, with children at home
- Help with the cost of recovery after a natural disaster strikes the home of a military veteran
- Identify the unmet needs of U.S. military personnel, veterans and their families, and provide the necessary resources to meet them

Be a hero to a hero. Make your gift of support today.



ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

The American Legion Family

District 2024 Spring Conference

Invitation and Lunch Registration

Fennimore Memorial Building
860 Lincoln Ave., Fennimore WI 53809

Saturday, April 20, 2024

American Legion Conference Registration Fee \$5.00

American Legion Auxiliary Registration Fee \$5.00

Pay registration fee day of conference

Conference registration 8am – 8:45am / Call to Order at 9am

Breakfast items will be available for purchase

LUNCH MENU:

Turkey and Dressing/Ham Sandwiches, assorted salads, cookies, milk/coffee/water

Cost \$12.00 per person – Lunch reservation deadline: **SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024**

Detach and mail

Lunch Reservations and money are **due April 6, 2024**. Send by mail only – please no phone calls.

Send lunch reservation and check made payable to ALA Unit 482 to:

Joanie Dickerson, PO Box 224, Bagley, WI 53801

Post/Unit Number _____ Post/Unit Name _____

Number of Lunch Reservations _____ @12.00 - \$ _____

(Do not include registration fee with lunch reservations)

List American Legion Auxiliary Name (s):

List Legionnaire Name (s):

Pick up your lunch tickets the day of the conference at the registration table.
(608) 996-2157 / jomaried@gmail.com

If questions, call Joanie Dickerson

Here are some hotels close to Fennimore if interested in spending the night for the Spring Conference on April 20, 2024

Sleep Inn & Suites Lancaster-Platteville

1600 S Madison Street, Lancaster WI 53813 608-723-3337

AmericInn by Wyndham Boscobel

1700 Elm St, Boscobel WI 53805 608-375-8000

Sands Motel

300 Elm Street, Boscobel WI 53805 608-375-4167

QUILT OF VALOR AWARD AT POTOSI LEGION

Commander Steven Post at American Legion Post 573 , Potosi awards Ted Bode with a 50 membership certificate.

Ted is also presented with a Quilt of Valor for his service in Vietnam with the CB's.

