



<b>Third District Legion DEC Meetings</b> Nov-Tues 11/25 - Barneveld Legion Post Dec - No Meeting Jan - Mid-Winter Mar-Tues 3/24 - Verona Legion Post May-Tues 5/26 - Barneveld Legion Post June-Tues 6/23 - Fennimore Legion Post	<b>Start at 7pm</b>	<b>Legion and Auxiliary Meetings:</b>  Feb-Sat 2/21 Holiday Party – Verona Legion Post - Meeting to follow FLYER IS INCLUDED RSVP BY February 7, 2026 Apr-Sat 4/25 - Spring Conference - Dodgeville High School
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Dan O'Brien – 3rd District Commander

The year is flying by. Veterans Day has come and gone and like I said in the Membership Report, I heard Posts in the area had wonderful Veterans Day programs with larger crowds than in years past. Thank you to all the Posts that lead the way with Honoring our Veterans.

We are now fast approaching Thanksgiving with Christmas just around the corner. Even with these holidays, we need to take time to reflect on what these holidays would be like or if we would even have them if not for all the Veterans' past and present. All those men and women who could not be at home for these holidays but made sure that we were able to celebrate them. As your family get together, take a moment to thank the Veterans for making it possible for us to be with each other. Make this a new tradition with your family.

Every week Adj. Julie sends out a Membership Report out along with incredibly valuable information. I in turn send this report out to all the Posts in the District (If you are a Post Commander and you are not getting my report, let me know). Membership is essential to every Post, but communication within your Post may be more important. Effective communication with your Post membership will keep all your Post members informed on all the Post activities. A well-informed membership will make it easier to retain those members. Above I said that I heard positive things about Veterans Day Programs, but I also heard that Posts had members asking when, and where their Veterans Day Programs were being held. If you have good communication with your membership, this should not happen. If you have an Auxiliary, SAL or Legion Riders at your Post, are you all working together and getting the same message out? It may be hard, but a stronger Legion Family can only work to everyone's advantage. At our Fall Conference we had Dept. Historian Morris Sadicario give us a presentation on MailChimp (a way to do newsletter blasts out to your Post membership if you have their email addresses). Argyle Post



Shelley Drager 3rd District President

Thanksgiving Greetings to Our Fighting 3rd, I want to extend a holiday greeting for all to have a blessed day with a full tummy and great conversations and of course a Packer win.

How are we doing on our challenge? I haven't heard from anyone yet. It's quick and easy and so needed. Remember "WILEGION.ORG" sign up for the grassroots action center. You're just a click away. Let's get clicking members.

As district presidents, we are involved with various programs and decisions regarding the programs finances and policies. We recently had such a meeting regarding everything Badger Girl State. Unfortunately, Badger State is suffering from budget cuts, rising expenses, and declining attendance. How can we help? Enroll an eligible student from your school district, Sponsor a student or three. No students in your district interested, please reach out to other area schools; those units may not have funds to send a student but have an interested student. this fantastic program has been around for 81 years. It is a critical program teaching our youth their civic duties. Badger Girls State is a nonpartisan program designed to teach young women responsible citizenship, our election process and their civic duties. The program offers hands on understanding the structure and functions of government at all levels. Participation is a fulltime necessity in order to gain a thorough knowledge of the programs and to be eligible for any Bager Girl State Scholarships. These ladies build lifelong friendships from across our state. It doesn't get any better than this. Let's get these ladies enrolled, they are our future.

If you do not or cannot sponsor a Delegate, please consider becoming a ALA Badger Girls State Benefactor. It is easy and so necessary for this program to continue. The deadline is April of next year, so you have plenty of time to raise some funds for this amazing program. You can find the Benefactor Donation Form in the Unit mailing for Oct and Nov. We all know our small local businesses get hit for donations from all directions, so I encourage us to look for bigger companies to reach out to for help with this deficit. Promote the value of this program; many great



251 is using Team Reach to communicate within their Post membership. A year ago, I had not heard of either of these ways to communicate with Post Membership. I am sure there are many different means of communication, and I strongly suggest that Posts find one that best suits them and start to use it. I have asked several times how many Posts have the same 5 or 6 members doing all the work and almost every Post raises their hand to confirm that. You can change this situation if you communicate with all your membership and ask them to get involved. We need to change how we do things and start to move forward, but that is up to each Post. If you stand still and do nothing, do not expect change to happen, you must make it happen.

We have all kinds of positive events and programs happening within the District such as Steak Suppers, Burgers in the Park, Chicken Barbeques, Bingo, Fish Suppers, and probably other things I am forgetting. We need to share these events within our District and when we do, then we as Legion members can go and support each other at these events. If you have an event, and you would like to get your information out to everyone, send me the information and I will get it out by email.

We have the Mid-Winters Conference coming up January 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> at the Oneida Casino and Hotel. Please go to [www.wilegion.org](http://www.wilegion.org) and look up all the excellent training we will have at the Conference on Saturday. This is a great opportunity to gain experience and knowledge about the Legion.

I keep talking about Communication-Involvement-Visibility and Accountability. Good things will happen at your Post if you are doing these four simple things. The American Legion has all the tools at our disposal to make these four things happen at your Post. How many Posts have gone in and printed out the Impact Statement for the Wisconsin Legion? What a great tool to communicate to everyone all the good, positive programs we have and the real impact on our communities. Using [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) has so much information for all of us. Any Legion member can access it, and you will be amazed by what you can find out and use. It is all about making us more knowledgeable, and stronger as Legion Posts.

Buddy Checks. A couple of Posts have made 100% Buddy Checks within their Membership. This is great and I would like to suggest that all Posts start a Buddy Check Program. Making contact by phone call or personal visit to a fellow Legion Member is something that becomes special for both the person getting the contact and the person making the contact. If you do not think it makes a difference, ask someone who has made the phone call or visit, you will hear wonderful stories.

I want to close with wishing all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and I want to thank everyone in the Legion



leaders come from Badger Girls and Boys State. Do you have local manufactures? Hit them up, show them where the future leaders are coming from. Include the school district in your fundraising plans. Meet with the guidance counselors make them aware of the programs in our schools.

Bager Girl State Packets have hit the post boxes, open them up and let's get together with our schools and our community and our businesses to encourage participation.

Shout out to New Glarus Auxiliary for the Octoberfest Water Sales Honor Flight fundraiser. Way to go!!!

Eat Lots, Say your prayer of thanksgiving, and safe travels to all.



## MEMBERSHIP

Nicole Welsh

Everglades Strong: Let's Move Third District Up the Ranks!

Third District—proudly representing Everglades National Park—is currently sitting 5th in the state of Wisconsin for membership!

We've reached 1,712 members toward our goal of 2,365, putting us at 72.39%. That's something to celebrate—but we're not done yet.

If each unit makes a focused push, we can move our district above 85% by next month. That means, collectively, we need to secure roughly 300 more renewals in the next few weeks. Together, that's absolutely within reach.

### Recognizing Our Trailblazers

A huge congratulations to the units already leading the way:

- Over 100% of Goal: Ridgeway, DeForest, and Mazomanie
- Over 90% of Goal: Cross Plains
- 80–89% of Goal: Black Earth, Sun Prairie, Dane, Fennimore, Mt. Hope, Beetown, Linden, Blanchardville, and Darlington
- 70–79% of Goal: Soldiers Grove, Gays Mills, Verona, Bagley, Avoca, Barneveld, Richland Center, and Lone Rock

Thank you for your hard work and dedication—you are setting the pace for the rest of the district!

### Now Is the Time to Reach Out

Before the holidays hit and everyone gets busy, this is a perfect window to connect personally with your members:

- Check in with them—see how they're doing, not just whether they've paid.
- Remind them that their 2026 membership is due for renewal.
- Let them know how easy it is to renew by calling the national office at 317-569-4570, Monday–Friday from 7:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Family for all you do. We do so many positive things for veterans and our communities that it seems like second nature, but it has so much impact. Please keep doing what you are doing.



Shullsburg Post 105 received a \$100 check for being a 100% Membership Post. Pictured are 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander Dan O'Brien and Shullsburg Post Commander Dan Wedge.



Shullsburg Post 105 is remodeling their entire kitchen thanks to Reilly Plumbing of Shullsburg

who donated, the Air Extraction System pictured, 2 new ranges, a deep fat fryer all new plumbing and a drainage system. This was a thank you from Reilly Plumbing for what Shullsburg Post 105 is doing in the community.



For several years now the Darlington FFA has put together boxes of items for our troops serving overseas. This year they put together 8 boxes that will be shipped to the troops next week in time for a little Christmas gift to those serving our Country. Darlington American Legion Post 214 is involved with this program by taking care of the shipping costs. Pictured from the left are Post 214 Member and CVSO Officer Sam Fuller, FFA students Alivia Crosby, Callie Bloesch and Third District Commander Dan O'Brien. Darlington American Legion Post 214 would like to thank Darlington FFA teacher Troy Lobdell and all the FFA students for putting together the packages for the troops, especially for the Holiday season.



- Highlight their benefits as members by directing them to the website:
  - Member benefits page: <https://www.legion-aux.org/member-benefits>
  - Member benefits flier: [https://www.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Benefits/Member\\_Benefits.pdf](https://www.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Benefits/Member_Benefits.pdf)

Consider including the flier in your mailing or email as a friendly reminder of the value of staying active in the Auxiliary.

You're Not Alone—I'm Here to Help

If you need any help with membership renewals, ideas for outreach, or if you have questions about membership in general, please reach out to me at [nicolewelsh1026@gmail.com](mailto:nicolewelsh1026@gmail.com). I am happy to support you in any way I can.

Let's work together to move Third District higher in the rankings this month and show the rest of Wisconsin how strong the Everglades can be!

### County Government Day from Lafayette County



Students out in front of the Courthouse before the day started



Students sitting in the Courtroom listening to a mock trial





Army Recruiter talking to the students about the opportunities the Military offers



Students listening to the EMS personal talk about opportunities in this field



Students in the Rotunda of the Courthouse



Students listening to representative from SouthWest Tech



One of the teachers in a jail cell



Students visiting one of the offices in the Courthouse



On Veterans Day the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade students at the Darlington Middle School presented Members of Darlington American Legion Post 214 with Thanksgiving Cards to give to the Veterans and Nurses at the VA Hospital in Middleton. This is the 15<sup>th</sup> year for Darlington 2<sup>nd</sup> making these cards for the Veterans and Nurses. A big thank you to the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers (Stephanie Acherman, Kim Crist and Sara Erickson) for with the students to get these cards ready.



Veterans Parks on Main St. in Darlington, Wisconsin. This was a project the Darlington SAL has been doing for several years.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> District

# Holiday Party

February 21, 2026

**RSVP by February 7, 2026**

Post 385 – 207 Legion Street – Verona WI 53593

**Doors open at 9:30**

**Lunch will start at Noon**

**Meetings will follow lunch**

Menu: Ham and Turkey Sandwiches, Vegetable, Array of Salads, Cake



**\$15.00** per person

Make checks payable to **ALA UNIT 385**



Detach and return with payment.

Jenni Syftestad – 205 Thompson St – Verona WI 53593-1043

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

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

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

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

## UP COMING EVENTS

- Nov 25 DEC at the Barneveld Legion
- Nov 27 Thanksgiving
- Dec 11 Cazenovia Soup Supper
- Dec 13 Post 501 Pancake Breakfast (8-11)
- Dec 13 Army vs Navy Game
- Dec 14 Cazenovia Card Party
- Jan 14 Verona Post 385 Beef Stew 4:30 – 6:30
- Jan 15 – 18 Mid-Winters at Oneida Casino Hotel in Green Bay
- Feb 21 Holiday Party at Verona Legion Post-Meeting to follow
- March 7 District Oratorical Contest Barneveld
- March 24 DEC at Verona Legion Post
- March 28 Department Oratorical Ripon
- April 11 Legion Family Testimonial
- April 25 Spring Conference at the Dodgeville High School
- May 8-9 Spring Department Meetings
- May 25 Memorial Day
- May 26 DEC at the Barneveld Legion Post
- June 23 DEC at the Fennimore Legion Post
- July 4 America is 250 Years Old