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Issue 06

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**From the President's Desk**

Happy New Year Everyone!

2026 proves to be an exciting year for the United States of America, as we will be celebrating 250 years! What a great time to start new traditions that can continue on throughout the years to come. No matter what you choose – food drive, American Family Day/Week celebration, open house, meal for veterans, donating to a local cause, etc. It is a great way to spark a new idea while helping others out in the community. I look forward to seeing you at mid-winter conference. Wishing you all a prosperous new year!

Kathy Olson

**Dates to Remember**

**January 15-18, 2026** – 2026 Midwinter Conference – Oneida Casino Hotel, Green Bay, WI

**January 19, 2026** – National Day of Service, Martin Luther King Jr Day

**District 2 Spring County Conferences**

The dates for the District 2 Spring County Conferences have been set. Following are the dates –

**Columbia** – April 18, 2026 @ Lodi

**Dodge** – March 28, 2026 @ Juneau

**Jefferson** – April 15, 2026 @ Lake Mills

**Ozaukee** – April 4, 2026 @ Peter Wollner Post 288, Cedarburg

**Sheboygan** – April 4

**Washington** – March 21, 2026

**District 2 Spring Conference** – April 25, 2026 @ Fort Atkinson

# Chaplain's Corner

District 2 Chaplain

Natalia Genovesi King

JANUARY

**“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, “What are you doing for others?” – Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**Each year, we come together to observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on the third Monday of January. This year, it falls on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Established as a federal holiday in 1986 and later designated by Congress in 1994 as a National Day of Service, this day is a call to action, a reminder that “it’s a day on, not off”.**

**Dr. King’s life was dedicated to service, to lifting others, and to fighting for justice and equality. It is through service that we honor his extraordinary legacy. As members of the American Legion Family, we are uniquely positioned to embody his belief that “everybody can be great because everybody can serve”.**

**This year, as we gather to volunteer and make a difference in our communities, let us remember that the work we do – no matter how big or small – is a continuation of the mission Dr. King set in motion: a mission of compassion, unity, and progress. Let us pray together:**

**Heavenly Father,**

**Thank You for the privilege of serving in Your name. As I step into another year of volunteering, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to give of myself and to make a difference in the lives of those in need.**

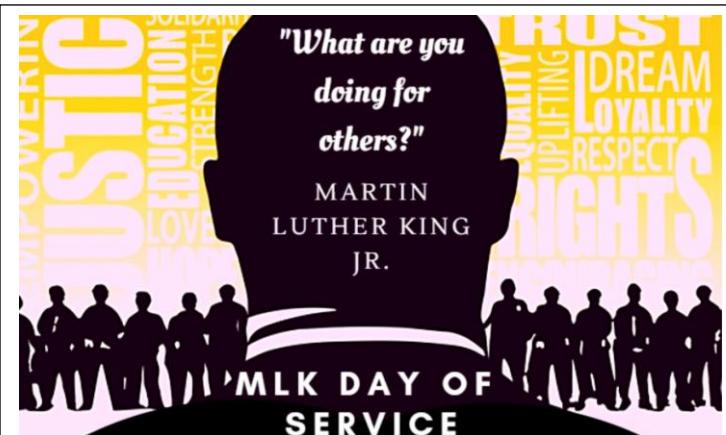
**Stir my heart to recognize that no act of service is ever too small; each one carries the potential to change a life. Whether it’s offering a helping hand to a neighbor, supporting a local charity, or expressing gratitude to our veterans, may I be a living vessel of Your love, compassion, and grace.**

**Inspire us to rise up every day with purpose and action, working for justice, peace, and unity. Let us hear the call of Rev. King: “*Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?*”.**

**Let this question drive us, Lord, to be the hands and feet of change in a world that needs Your light.**

**In Your name, we pray.**

**Amen**



## Get to know your District 2 Officers

District 2 is made up of 6 Counties, 40 Units and 2,114 members (2025 paid memberships). The area ranges from Wisconsin Dells, Fort Atkinson, to Sheboygan and all the area in between. It is a far-reaching District. There are 9 officers that lead the District from all different Units. Let's get to know a little about these 9 officers. This month highlighting...

**Shirley Krier** is our Second Vice President.

She is also the District 2 Assistant Sgt-at-Arms, Membership Chairperson covering Jefferson County and the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) Chairperson. Shirley is the Treasurer for the Ozaukee County Auxiliary.

Shirley is a member of the Peter Wollner Unit #288 in Cedarburg. She has been a member since 1984 and is a Paid Up for Life (PUFL) member. She serves as the 2025-2026 ALABGS Chairperson for this Unit.

Shirley has been organizing the VA&R project for many years. This year she has picked Camp American Legion as the District project.



## Mid-Winter Conference

The 2026 Midwinter Conference will be held January 15-18, 2026, at the Oneida Hotel & Convention Center in Green Bay, WI. The Auxiliary mainly has events on Saturday, January 17, 2026, but you are invited to attend any session throughout the Conference.

The main events for the Auxiliary on Saturday are Joint Session: Legion Family Interactions, Public Relations for the Legion Family and in the afternoon is the ALA Reporting/General Session.

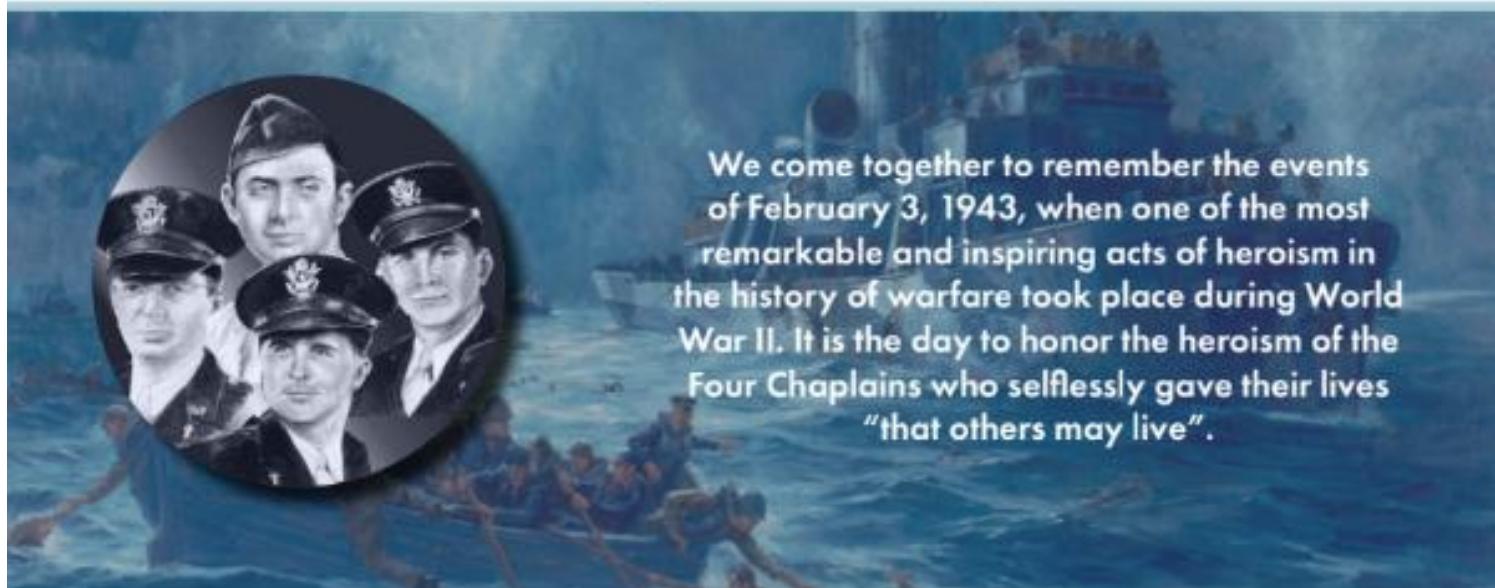
There will be a Midwinter Parade of Checks this year instead of the hygiene donations.

Hope to see you at the conference.



The Mighty 2nd District

# Four Chaplains Memorial Dinner and Service



We come together to remember the events of February 3, 1943, when one of the most remarkable and inspiring acts of heroism in the history of warfare took place during World War II. It is the day to honor the heroism of the Four Chaplains who selflessly gave their lives "that others may live".

**Saturday  
February 7, 2026**

5 PM - Cocktails  
6 PM - Dinner  
7 PM - Service

**Hosted by Post 82 Port Washington**

Van Ells-Schanen American Legion Post 82

435 North Lake Street  
Port Washington, WI 53074

**RSVP**

Reservations  
must be received by  
no later than Friday  
January 30, 2026

This event is open to all members of the Legion Family and others who wish to attend.

Make Checks payable to:

American Legion Post 82

Send To:

American Legion Post 82  
PO Box 482, Port Washington, WI 53074

**Total Number Attending** \_\_\_\_\_ **x** **\$22.00** **each =** **\$ 0** **total**

Name

Qty.

Post, Unit, Squadron #

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Please use another form for additional attendees

# American Legion Family USA 250 Challenge

According to the Legion website, The American Legion Family is honoring the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday with a commitment to embracing physical activity, supporting mental health and serving its communities. The USA 250 Challenge encourages American Legion Family members, other veterans and all Americans to participate, and even raise additional money to support our disabled veterans and families in need through The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.

The year-long initiative offers three categories – fitness, mental wellness and community service – in order to engage more American Legion Family members and others to participate.

You may engage in one, two or all three activities as an individual or as part of a team like a Post, Unit, Squadron or Riders chapter.

The registration fee is \$30.00 and each participant will receive their choice of a USA 250 Challenge tech shirt. Donations will go to the Veterans and Children Foundation.

Ideas for things to do in the three categories are

- **Fitness** – cover 250 miles (or hours) of any fitness activities you choose. Examples for individuals include walking, hiking, running, cycling, swimming, using the elliptical, playing pickleball, rowing, etc. Participants may also join a group effort to achieve the goal. Example 10 teammates walking an average of 25 miles each.
- **Wellness** – complete 250 hours of wellness activities. Examples for individuals include yoga, meditation and other forms of mindfulness.
- **Community Service** – complete 250 hours of community service. Examples cleaning up 250 graves in a veterans cemetery, teaching flag etiquette to 250 students, sending 250 care packages to deployed troops.

Go to the following website to register and track your progress.

<https://www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/usa250/challenge>



# Membership

**REMINDER - County Presidents contact your Units and Unit Presidents contact your members to keep the membership numbers rolling.**

This year's membership theme is "National Park Service".

The 2<sup>nd</sup> District's National Park is **Denali**. Membership will be calculated for each Unit, County and District.

Units can begin having their members pay their 2026 membership dues. Dues can either be paid over the phone by calling National direct @ 317-569-4570 (Mon.-Fri. 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.), online by logging on to the National website at [www\(ALAforVeterans.org](http://www(ALAforVeterans.org)), or they can pay their membership chairperson at their Unit.

Encourage early payment of membership dues to be eligible for a Unit "Navigation/Compass" Award. Membership dues must be at Department Headquarters PRIOR to the goal date to be considered eligible and the Unit must have the 2025-2026 Unit Officer Form submitted to Department with officers' dues paid to be eligible. One Unit will be awarded \$100.00.

75% is paid by September 15, 2025 – **winner Berlin Unit #340, District 6**

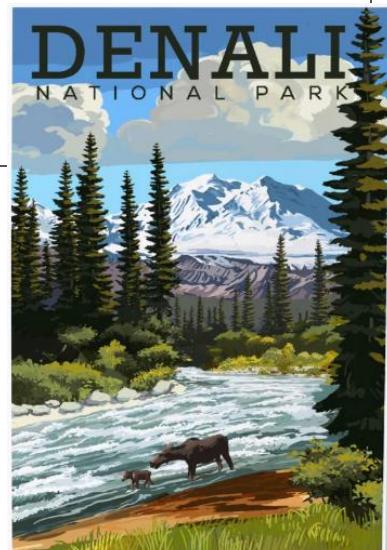
85% is paid by October 15, 2025 – **winner Coleman Unit #280, District 9**

95% is paid by November 15, 2025 – **winner DeForest Unit #348, District 3**

100% is paid by December 15, 2025 – **winner Delafield Unit #196, District 1.**

There is also a "Park Pass" Award. If a Unit has 100% membership dues to Department Headquarters PRIOR to December 31, 2025, you will receive 2 entries per Unit or January 31, 2026, you will receive 1 entry per Unit. The Unit must also have their 2025-2026 Unit Officer from on file at Department Headquarters. The "Park Pass" Award will be one winner, selected at random on February 14, 2026, to receive:

- Two Paid Department Convention registrations
- One paid room for a 2-night stay at the Hilton Appleton Paper Valley Hotel
- Two passes for Saturday night's (July 18, 2026) Commander's party
- Special Convention recognition.



100% UNIT		2026 Membership processed as of 12/16/25						
		UNIT	CITY	2026 GOAL	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT
02	Columbia	0062	Columbus	16	0	13	13	81.25%
		0187	Wisconsin Dells	38	1	32	33	86.84%
		0208	Rio	32	0	32	32	100.00%
		0215	Pardeeville	39	1	30	31	79.49%
		0216	Lodi	40	3	27	30	75.00%
		0271	Poynette	25	0	19	19	76.00%
		0401	Cambria	48	3	45	48	100.00%
		<b>Total</b>		<b>238</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>86.55%</b>
Dodge	Dodge	0015	Juneau	67	2	31	33	49.25%
		0069	Mayville	85	2	68	70	82.35%
		0146	Beaver Dam	78	4	46	50	64.10%
		0157	Horicon	86	4	45	49	56.98%
		0270	Theresa	30	6	18	24	80.00%
		0347	Lomira	34	1	27	28	82.35%
		0420	Hustisford	17	0	15	15	88.24%
		0521	Fox Lake	98	3	81	84	85.71%
		<b>Total</b>		<b>495</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>71.31%</b>
Jefferson	Jefferson	0067	Lake Mills	51	0	41	41	80.39%
		0164	Jefferson	33	0	23	23	69.70%
		0166	Fort Atkinson	52	2	43	45	86.54%
		0189	Watertown	82	6	52	58	70.73%
		0233	Waterloo	39	7	30	37	94.87%
		0305	Johnson Creek	27	0	18	18	66.67%
		<b>Total</b>		<b>284</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>78.17%</b>
Ozaukee	Ozaukee	0082	Port Washington	70	4	66	70	100.00%
		0288	Cedarburg	159	11	125	136	85.53%
		0355	Grafton	155	11	119	130	83.87%
		0410	Fredonia	18	0	18	18	100.00%
		0412	Belgium	31	0	26	26	83.87%
		0457	Mequon-Thiensville	53	1	27	28	52.83%
		0470	Saukville	155	1	114	115	74.19%
		<b>Total</b>		<b>641</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>81.59%</b>
Sheboygan	Sheboygan	0083	Sheboygan	32	10	25	35	109.38%
		0145	Random Lake	20	1	12	13	65.00%
		0149	Sheboygan Falls	28	0	24	24	85.71%
		0243	Plymouth	135	7	99	106	78.52%
		0387	Franklin	53	4	30	34	64.15%
		0462	Adell	12	0	10	10	83.33%
		<b>Total</b>		<b>280</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>79.29%</b>
Washington	Washington	0036	West Bend	32	1	22	23	71.88%
		0321	Germantown	39	13	22	35	89.74%
		0384	Kewaskum	75	17	53	70	93.33%
		0483	Allenton	88	10	65	75	85.23%
		0486	Jackson	82	2	44	46	56.10%
		0522	Hubertus	32	1	32	33	103.13%
		<b>Total</b>		<b>348</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>81.03%</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>2286</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>1669</b>	<b>1808</b>	<b>79.09%</b>