

3rd DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER

THE INFORMER



AUGUST 2023

Comrades:

I hope to see many of you at the Department Convention in Rothschild / Wausau 19-23 July. It's a great way to connect with friends from around the state and hear what they're doing in their communities. It is also our opportunity to have a voice. Elections for Department Officers and Resolutions are considered at the Department and National Conventions so if you have an opportunity register and ensure your Post submits a delegate form for you so that you can vote.

You'll notice that I always talk about all the good things that are happening around the District which includes the fantastic job each and every Post is doing with membership. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization.

Please send me the good things that your Posts are doing – Buddy Checks, Cornhole tournaments, Veteran recognition dinners, connections with Real Estate Agents and the Chamber of Commerce, Award Ceremonies, sharing what your Post is doing in the community, PR – paper, Facebook, social media, Recognition of Veterans, Quilts of Valor, Memorial Day and Veterans Day Programs, Flag Programs, Informational events – have the CVSO in to your Post and invite all Veterans, Badger Honor Flight, Be The One Events, events to raise money for homeless veterans, etc....

I have included copy an article written by Past National Commander Denise Rohan about the Welcome Home picnic and ceremony that was in Verona. You can also watch the video of the event at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CETZbB2SMRo>

The 3rd District Fall Conference will be held in Richland Center on the 21st of October. Please put the date on your calendar, additional details to follow.

Department Events:

Department Convention: July 19-23, 2023 in Rothschild/Wausau – please register and come to the convention as we vote for future leaders for the Department of Wisconsin

WALLECA: July 24-28, 2023



RSVP to jerhook@gmail.com by 6 August

3rd District Picnic

Everyone is Invited

When: Saturday August 12

Where: Brigham Park Shelter #1

3160 County Highway F, Blue Mounds, WI 53517

Plan to eat at 12:30

Bring a dish to share

Meat, Table Service, and bottled water will be provided

Come on out and lets have some fun. Yard games – yard jenga, bags / cornhole, please bring yard games if you have them (no lawn darts, I'm joking, no really don't bring them).



Veterans enjoying the day.

Honoring Vietnam veterans

Verona, WI

July 6, 2023

Around 170 local Vietnam War veterans and guests from Verona and Fitchburg made an appearance at the American Legion Mason-Lindsay Post 385's Welcome Home/Appreciation Picnic to honor lives lost and recognize Vietnam-era veterans for their service on Sunday, June 25.

"From the comments I heard, everyone had a good time and enjoyed talking to fellow Vietnam veterans," commented past post commander Stan Hook.

The Verona Fire Department opened the program by presenting the American and POW/MIA flags. Robert DeBoux sang the national anthem, while American Legion 3rd District Commander Jerry Hook conducted a POW/MIA ceremony to remember those who never returned home.

Fitchburg Hy-Vee catered the picnic itself, serving fried chicken, roast beef, potato salad, baked beans, roasted red potatoes, rolls and dessert for those in attendance.

Following the meal, veterans Charlotte Jerney and Denise Rohan spoke to guests. Jerney spoke briefly about the important role nurses played in Vietnam, while Rohan spoke of the heroes seated in front of her and how the Verona Press was highlighting many of their stories.

Each veteran received a Vietnam commemorative lapel pin and a Vietnam Veteran or Vietnam Era Veteran baseball cap.

Other attendees of the picnic included Wisconsin Veterans Affairs Secretary-designee James

Bond, Department of Wisconsin American Legion Commander Julie Muhle, Dane County Auxiliary president Noreen Schmidt, representatives for Badger Honor Flight, the Dane County Veterans Service Office and Dogs 2 Dogtags.

Five veterans in attendance received a Quilt of Valor. The Quilts of Valor Foundation works to cover servicemembers and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing quilts. The recipients were Dorian Hermanson (USA), Ralph Stoikes (USA), Steve Rohan (USMC), Dan Strain (USN) and Mark Losenegger (USAF).

Hook said, "I hope they all realize how much we appreciate what they did for this country and how proud we are of them. But more than anything, we want them to know they are not alone and that there is plenty of help available for those still carrying the burdens of Vietnam with them."

More photos of the event are viewable at:

<https://orohanphotography.shootproof.com/gallery/21786996/>
(<https://orohanphotography.shootproof.com/gallery/21786996/>).

Submitted by:

Denise Rohan

« [Previous story \(/ownwords/11043/cheerful-](/ownwords/11043/cheerful-) [Next story » \(/story/11031/greenville-ga-postobedience\)](/story/11031/greenville-ga-postobedience) 186-local-heroes)

More stories:



(</honors/10386/police-officer-jesse-posadas-awarded-american-legion-law-enforcement-certificate>)

Police officer Jesse Posadas awarded American Legion Law Enforcement Certificate of Commendation

(</honors/10386/police-officer-jesse-posadas-awarded-american-legion-law-enforcement-certificate>)



(</memorials/10840/maryland-american-legion-family-washing-vietnam-war-memorial>)

Maryland American Legion Family - washing of Vietnam War Memorial (</memorials/10840/marylandamerican-legion-family-washing-vietnam-war-memorial>)



(/volunteering/5530/teenager-year-2018) Teenager of the Year 2018 (/volunteering/5530/teenager-year-2018)



(<http://www.legion.org/centennial>)



(<https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Join/MembershipJoinRegistration/ProductId/134075/Rat> org-sidebar)

Legiontown U.S.A.

[About \(/about\)](#)

[Criteria \(/criteria\)](#)

[Download Booklets \(/booklets\)](#)

[Proclamation \(/proclamation\)](#)

[Community Covenant \(/covenant\)](#)

[American Legion Day \(/day\)](#)

Family of Legion Sites

[Centennial Celebration \(http://centennial.legion.org/\)](http://centennial.legion.org/)

[Legion.org \(http://www.legion.org/\)](http://www.legion.org/)

[MyLegion.org \(http://www.mylegion.org/\)](http://www.mylegion.org/)

Search Legiontown U.S.A.

[Terms and Conditions \(/terms\)](#) - [Privacy Policy \(/privacy\)](#)

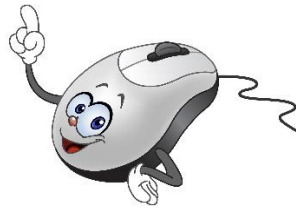


D3 Auxiliary Newsletter

President Karen Runk

Welcome to August! As we wrap up the 2022-23 year with the Department and National Conventions, I'd like to thank all of you who worked the ALA programs within your Units! A lot of effort & hard work went into organizing, fundraising and communicating your events to benefit Veterans. Allow me to encourage you to continue this journey through 2023-24 and beyond.

We are all gearing up for another great year of service to veterans. The new membership year is already on the move, with the membership renewals beginning in July! National is accepting membership renewals online through its website and via telephone. The renewal process on the telephone is friendly and easy, even if you're paying multiple member renewals!! The first Department Membership incentive drawing is early August, so get your officer form & dues submitted. See the Department website for more information regarding officer forms, incentives, membership goals and applications.



OR



MEMBERS CAN PAY THEIR DUES ONLINE OR OVER THE PHONE

It's FAST, EASY, AND ACCURATE! Units are notified WEEKLY of their members that pay by ONLINE OR BY PHONE. OVER THE PHONE - Call National direct @ (317) 569-4570 (Mon. – Fri. 7:00 am – 3:30 pm) National will now be taking member's dues payments over the phone via debit or credit card. You will speak to a real person. A member may pay for several people at a time; perfect for MEMBERS who pay for several members. Once the payment has been accepted the member will be sent via e-mail a confirmation notice and a valid membership card.

Members may pay their dues ONLINE via debit or credit card by simply visiting the national website www.ALAforVeterans.org. You will need to create a log in ID if you don't already have one. An email address and member ID# is required. If you need assistance please contact the national organization's helpline at alahq@alaforveterans.org / (317) 569-4500. Payments of multiple members should be done over the phone. Once the payment has been accepted, the member will be sent via e-mail a confirmation notice and a valid membership card.

DO NOT SIGN UP NEW MEMBERS ONLINE. THE SYSTEM WILL AUTOMATICALLY PUT THE NEW MEMBER IN THE HEADQUARTER'S UNIT #2930; NOT THE ACTUAL UNIT THE NEW MEMBER WISHES TO JOIN. #2930 will get the credit towards their 2023 membership goal and the member will have to transfer to the unit they originally wanted to belong to.

2024 MEMBERSHIP

2024 membership goals will be your 2023 goal +1. Units who are looking for guidance or support in membership can reach out to your District 3 membership team, Lisa Bowen and Shelley Drager. Your Unit or County can invite your District officers to a regular meeting or participate via zoom meeting.

AUGUST EVENTS & REMINDERS

AUGUST 7TH – PURPLE HEART DAY

AUGUST 10TH – AGENT ORANGE AWARENESS DAY

AUGUST 14TH – NAVAJO CODE TALKERS DAY



PURPLE HEART DAY

Purple Heart Day is observed annually on August 7th since 2014 and is a time for Americans to remember and honor the brave men and women who were wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. George Washington chose purple for the medal ribbon representing courage. Major League Baseball observes this day with a 7th inning ceremony recognizing wounded and fallen veterans. You can observe this day by visiting wounded veterans and sharing your appreciation. You can fundraise and donate to the Purple Heart Foundation, learn more by visiting <https://www.purpleheart.org/> or call (888) 668-1656.

Suggested activities: Host a Purple Heart remembrance ceremony and dinner at your Post, recognize your local Purple Heart recipients in your local newspapers or social media pages, hold a children's book event at your local library and invite Purple Heart recipients to attend, host a purple heart craft with scouts or libraries, paint rocks and place them in the cemetery, military memorials or library gardens with youth and scout organizations. Fundraise for the Purple Heart Foundation with Purple crafts, or craft events.

AGENT ORANGE AWARENESS DAY

Did you know that Agent Orange is an herbicide? The US Military first used Agent Orange on August 10th in Vietnam to reduce the vegetation in regions where the battles occurred, thereby reducing or eliminating the natural cover for the enemy to hide. Agent Orange contained an incredibly toxic substance known as Dioxin. The medical impact of this substance is still under investigation today and is responsible for a multitude of illnesses and diseases spanning generations of these veterans. You can observe this day of awareness by wearing & distributing orange ribbons, hold a memorial service for service personnel impacted by Agent Orange or go to the department of VA website to learn more <https://dva.wi.gov>

Suggested activities: Raise awareness by submitting articles with military service photos or veteran biographies to your local newspapers or post on social media. Write your congress and Senate leaders to support the recent legislation protecting military personnel from toxic burn pits, VA benefits for Agent Orange exposure, etc. Visit a local cemetery and share the biography of the Vietnam War veterans in your community, youth and scout organizations. Host orange ribbon crafts or events at the library, Legion Post or memorial parks.

NAVAJO CODE TALKERS DAY

Navajo Code Talkers Day was established in 1982 by then President, Ronald Reagan. The Navajo Code Talkers are US Marines, comprised of members from several Native American tribes. Together the Code Talkers developed and introduced communication codes based in the Navajo language during WWII. Military communications were further encrypted with Navajo word-substitutions to ensure unbreakable codes. The Code Talkers saved American lives and played critical roles in many significant battles. For 25 years, the program was classified and the stories of the Code Talkers went untold. The legacy and traditions of the Navajo people and Code Talkers are preserved in Historical Museums in Gallup, New Mexico and Tuba City, Arizona. Careful consideration has preserved the Navajo tradition of weaving storytelling with the Navajo & Native American cultures of earth. Hollywood film Windtalkers is based on the Navajo Code Talkers, but the documentary is entitled Navajo Code Talkers of WWII. Only three surviving Code Talkers are with us today. Catch a glimpse of history before it vanishes. Semper Fidelis.

Suggested activities: Host an on-line tour of the Navajo Code Talkers Museum with your local libraries, youth organizations and military families, host a movie night to play the movies "Navajo Code Talkers or Windtalkers with teenagers and their families. Visit a US Marine Corp site to watch the interviews with the Code Talkers.



SHIELD of SISTERS

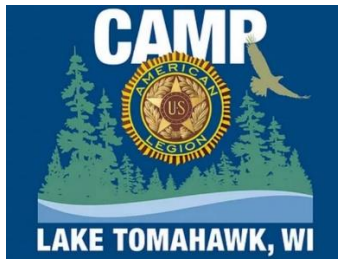
Organized in 2022, Shield of Sisters (SOS) is a military veteran organization serving female veterans who have experienced sexual trauma during their service to this great nation. Military sexual trauma impacts 1 in 3 female service members & veterans. In Wisconsin alone, that equates to over 9,000 women. The Shield of Sisters was created to help restore the lives and future of our sister veterans. Restoration begins with the healing support of treatment, therapy and a sense of community with fellow military and veteran women. SOS hosts retreats for female service members and veterans that have survived military sexual trauma (MST). Through these retreats the women will be guided through life-changing methods to transform their trauma into powerful and personal victories. Female veterans are given the opportunity to change their story and vision for their future.

The American Legion Auxiliary can assist the Shield of Sisters by collecting and donating items on their wish list OR by providing a monetary donation on-line or US mail. All wish list items are resources for female veterans and instrumental for retreats. Dolls that are in poor condition are restored by the female veterans and are symbolic of their own personal restoration. Holding collection drives, pamper parties to collect spa items or even better, invite Shield of Sisters to your next Unit or County meeting to share their mission and donate your items. Below is the contact information for Shield of Sisters and the wish list:

**ShieldofSisters.org
608-344-0210
712 Frederick Ave
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538**

Wish List:

- Beat up dolls (raggedy) for restoration
- Fabrics (doesn't have to be new, can be scraps) for veterans to make doll clothing
- Craft supplies:
 - Paint brushes
 - Glue guns
 - Glue sticks
 - Small canvas to paint on (we get these on Amazon)
 - Scraps of craft materials (ribbon, buttons)
- Self-care items (small hand lotion, calming teas, sensory putty, bath salts, small candles, etc)
- M&Ms
- Small mason jars (jelly jars)



TRI-COUNTY CAMP AMERICAN LEGION CABIN #14

Halloween Dance

Raffle and Auction Baskets

OCTOBER 27th, 2023

6 – 10pm

Century Hall in Wauzeka

We need your help, we are asking units from all over District 3 to consider assembling a basket, solicit local businesses for an item to auction or simply enjoy the Halloween Dance on October 27th. Any assistance that your unit offers is appreciated.

Please contact Bernice Dombeck with any questions or donation information. Donations can be mailed to: John Young, 105 Railway Ave, Soldiers Grove, WI 54655

V A & R

Second Harvest Baby Shower

Ladies and Gentlemen of District 3

Lets pull units and posts together to provide Second Harvest locations in all of our counties with baby supplies - diapers, formula, sleepers etc.

In 2022 Dane County units pulled together and collected over \$3000 worth of donations. Imagine the HUGE IMPACT we could make in Southern Wisconsin!!

The Second Harvest locations in our counties were listed for you at Spring Conference. Feel free to contact me for a location near you: Su Timmerman 608-513-8675 or stimmerman@charter.net. You could also contact Second Harvest of Southern Wisconsin.

Please let me know your county Point of Contact information. Thanks for getting our name out there.

Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern WI Pantries

CRAWFORD

10041	Couleecap - Prairie du Chien	CRAW	Prairie du Chien	53821
10271	Wisconsin Badger Camp	CRAW	Prairie du Chein	53821
10703	Mount Sterling Lutheran - Gays Mills Food Pantry	CRAW	Gays Mills	54631
10742	SHFB Gays Mills MP	CRAW	Gays Mills	54631
11043	SHFB De Soto School Dist Food Pantry	CRAW	De Soto	54624

DANE

10004	Allied Food Pantry	DANE	Madison	53711
10864	New Heights Lutheran Church - Heights Unlimited	DANE	Black Earth	53515
10696	Cambridge Food Pantry and Resource Center	DANE	Cambridge	53523
10075	Deerfield Community Center Food Pantry	DANE	Deerfield	53531
10706	SHFB Deerfield Youth Program	DANE	Deerfield	53531
11145	Deerfield Community Center - Mealsite	DANE	Deerfield	53531
11051	MISSION NUTRITION DEFOREST INC	DANE	Deforest	53532
10026	Bethel Lutheran: Food Pantry	DANE	Madison	53703
10089	FUMC Food Pantry	DANE	Madison	53703
10103	Grace Episcopal Church Food Pantry	DANE	Madison	53703
10136	Off the Square Club	DANE	Madison	53703
10180	Port St Vincent	DANE	Madison	53703
10184	Rainbow Project	DANE	Madison	53703
10419	ARC Community Svcs-Paterson	DANE	Madison	53703
10428	ARC Community Svcs - Respect	DANE	Madison	53703
10443	Salvation Army of Dane County - Shelter	DANE	Madison	53703
10684	Vivent Health - Madison	DANE	Madison	53703
10907	Catholic Charities - The Beacon 10907	DANE	Madison	53703
11155	Bethel Lutheran Church Homeless Ministry	DANE	Madison	53703
10014	Goodman Community Center Food Pantry	DANE	Madison	53704
10080	East Madison Community Center Food Pantry	DANE	Madison	53704
10117	Kennedy Heights Community Center Food Pantry	DANE	Madison	53704
10256	SHFB KIDS CAFE Vera Court	DANE	Madison	53704
10401	The River Food Pantry - Meal Site	DANE	Madison	53704
10402	The River Food Pantry	DANE	Madison	53704
10743	SHFB Madison Ridgeway Church MP	DANE	Madison	53704
10776	DAIS: Domestic Abuse Intervention Services	DANE	Madison	53704
10858	The River Food Pantry - MUNCH	DANE	Madison	53704
10862	Project Home - Rodney Scheel House	DANE	Madison	53704
11015	SHFB Sandburg Elementary School	DANE	Madison	53704
11054	SHFB Madison East High School	DANE	Madison	53704
11056	SHFB Mendota Elementary School	DANE	Madison	53704
11116	SHFB KIDS CAFE Kennedy Heights Community Center	DANE	Madison	53704
11117	SHFB East Madison Comm Ctr Youth Program	DANE	Madison	53704
11118	SHFB Goodman Youth Program	DANE	Madison	53704
11122	Lakeview Lutheran Food Pantry	DANE	Madison	53704
11152	Vera Court Neighborhood Center Food Pantry	DANE	Madison	53704
11032	The River - UW Madison Open Seat Eagle Heights CC	DANE	Madison	53705
11080	Horizon High School	DANE	Madison	53705
11101	Ronald McDonald House Charities of Madison, Inc.	DANE	Madison	53705

Honor Flight - Lone Eagle

The Honor Flight started in 2006 when two men, Earl Morse and Jeff Miller, each took a Veteran in their small planes to visit the monuments in Washington DC. [Today](#) there are 128 hub cities across the US totally run by volunteers and donations.

The mission Statements is to "escort every Veteran to DC to see the monuments built in their honor."

If a Veteran lives more than 120 miles from a hub, they qualify for the Lone Eagle Honor Flight. Veterans are chosen based on: oldest to newest conflict and application date. Top priority are Veterans who are terminally ill.

If there is a group who would like to share this experience as comrades, each name should be listed on each applications stating that they would like to fly together. I recently worked with a group from Big Bear CA who already do almost everything together. They help each other on a regular basis, including dealing with PTSD and community projects. Pretty amazing!!!

My "job" with the Lone Eagle consists of contacting by phone the Veteran and guardian collecting and verifying all information required. I also contacted a family member to coordinate the "mail call" notes for the Veteran. Then I am ready to do the data entry for each of them. When all flight related emails with general information, guardian payment instructions, and guardian training schedule I can then send the emails to each of the three.

For the [September 8-10](#) trip I have a group of 19 Veterans and guardians of Nebraska. There is a sponsor for this group who are donating the guardian fees and coordinating a bus to pick each pair up and take them to Denver for a direct flight to Baltimore. Lone Eagle flies Veterans and guardians from across the country by commercial air to gather at the Baltimore Hilton.

In [November 2019](#) ALA and Honor Flight Network signed an agreement that supports the use of poppy funds to be used for the support of Veterans for this trip. Guardians are a huge part of this support; hence poppy dollars can be used to pay guardian fees.

I feel truly blessed and honored to contact all of these amazing men, women and their families to help make this a most memorable event in all of their lives!!!

God Bless everyone involved and those who help support the Honor Flight mission.

To help support us, please consider donations to:

Lone Eagle Honor Flight
Attn: Bobbie Bradley - National Program Director - Honor Flight Network
1405 South Fern Street #702
Arlington, VA 22202
937-521-2400 ext 104

and please continue mail call notes of thanks to:

Su Timmerman
1801 Cameron Drive
Madison, WI 53711



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
ALA IN THE KNOW (Important Info for Every Member)



2023 REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE: AUGUST 1, 2023
(Please submit one form per person)

Members are encouraged to register early--space is limited! Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Registrations received after capacity is reached, will be returned. No reservations will be accepted on site. Reservation deadline for all sessions is AUGUST 1st.

Session is \$25/person and includes morning refreshments, a light lunch, and program materials. Sessions will include information on a variety of topics and Auxiliary programs. New topics will be covered, so come out and join the fun!

Schedule for all conferences:

7:45 am – 8:15 am Registration/Morning Refreshments
 8:15 am – 2:30 pm Informative presentation, lunch break, interactive program session, Q&A

Reservation deadline for ALL sessions: August 1, 2023

Please print clearly:

District #: _____ Unit #: _____ Unit City: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: home cell: _____

Select One:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, 09/9/2023	American Legion Post #360 417 East Main Street, Waunakee, WI 53597
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, 09/16/2022	Tigerton Community Center 221 Birch St, Tigerton, WI 54486 Parking in Back / Use Back Door
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, 09/30/2023	Fletcher Pechacek American Legion #121 701 N Main St, River Falls, WI 54022

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (\$25/person): \$ _____

Mail check, payable to ALA-Wisconsin, by August 1st to:
 ALA Wisconsin, P. O. Box 140, Portage, WI 53901-0140.

A \$25.00 fee will be charged for any check returned by the bank.

Please share one (1) question you would like addressed during the session: