



Interim
Commander's and
Department Vice Commanders'
Journal

For the year following the 106th Convention
Department Commander Nathan M. Bond

The American Legion

Portage, Wisconsin

Compiled By Department Historian Morris Sadicario

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[Website.](https://www.wilegion.org) (https://www.wilegion.org)

Mailing address: 2930 American Legion Drive, Portage, WI 53901.

Introduction

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veteran's organization. Focusing on service to veterans, servicemembers and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at nearly 2 million in more than 13,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico, and the Philippines. (Legion, 2021)

Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans, and produced many important programs for children and youth.

This history is dedicated to the American Legion Family members of Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and Riders who lived and enjoyed these events to the fullest! Our programs and activities support Veterans, Defense, Youth, Americanism, and Communities.

Commander Nathan Bond set the theme for his year as "Family First." This can be interpreted in several positive ways. Clearly, all American Legion component parts, from Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and Legion Riders, comprise one family. Also, the nuclear family.

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Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion

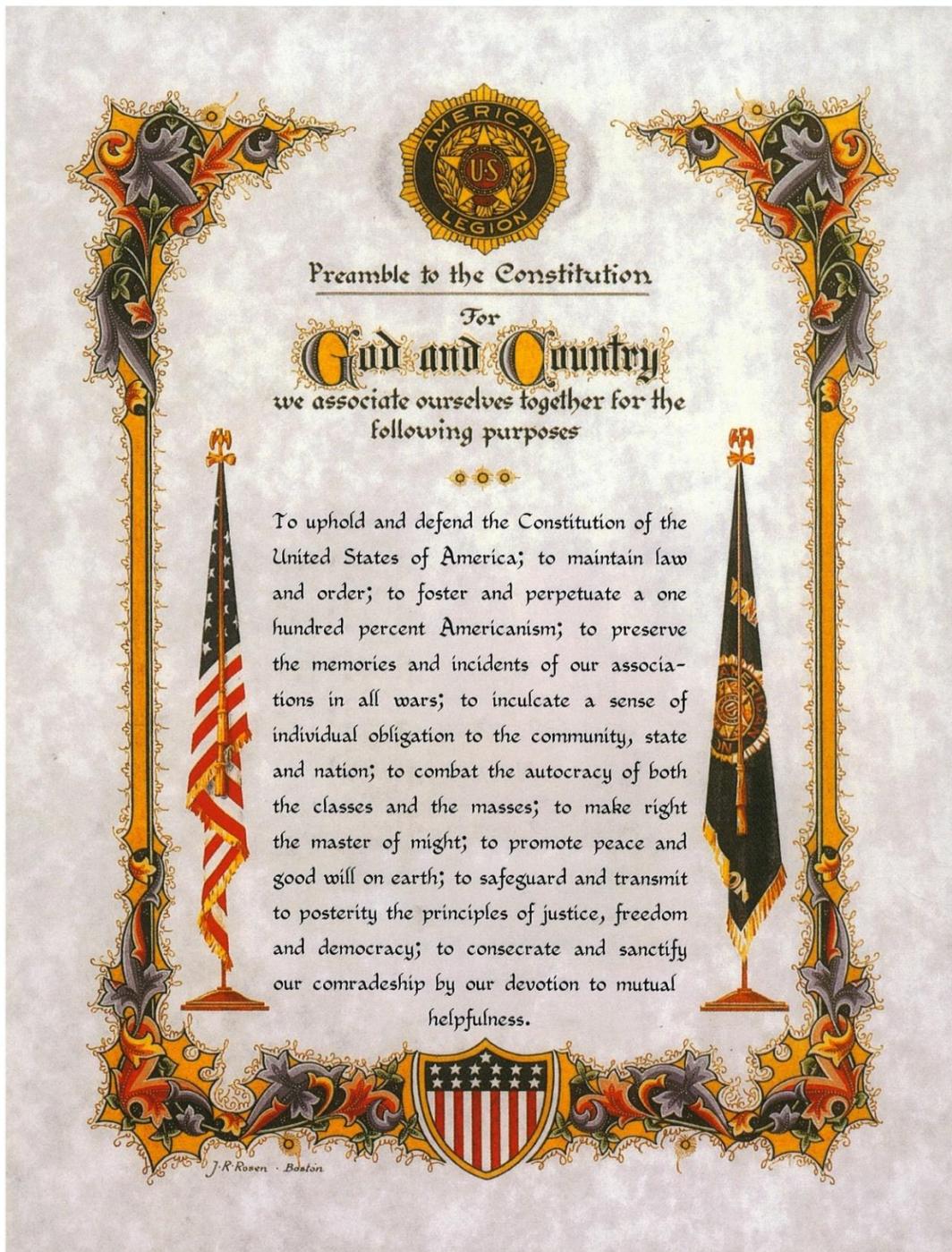


Figure 1 Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion

Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion Auxiliary



PREAMBLE (To its Constitution)

For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Figure 2 Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion Auxiliary

Chapter 1 – Roster of Department Officers

Leadership

The Department Officers were installed on 19 June 2025. The Commander's appointed posts were approved by DEC on 20 July 2025 and installed on the same day.

Commander	Nathan Morgan Bond	
1 st Vice Commander	Larry Larson	Districts #10, 11, 12
2 nd Vice Commander	Steven Kohnke	Districts #1, 2, 3
3 rd Vice Commander	David Steinert	Districts #6, 8, 9
4 th Vice Commander	Rita Rindahl	Districts #4, 5, 7
Sgt. At Arms	Aimee Korger	
Sgt. At Arms	John Berg	
Chaplain	Virgil T. Smith, Jr.	
Finance Officer	Brad **	
Historian	Morris Sadicario	
Judge Advocate	David A Bretl	



Standing: (l-r) NEC Shappell, PDC Johnson, Sgt/Arms Korger, 1st District Commander Rothering, 2nd DC. Leone, 3rd DC O'Brien, 4th DC Minch, 5th DC Ellis, 6th DC Fleck, 7th DC ,8th DC Peeters, 9th DC McNulty, 10th DC Decker, 11th DC Johnson, 12th DC Roberts, ANEC Stuvengen, PDC Eirich.

Seated: (l-r) DVC Rindahl, DVC Steinert, DVC Kohnke, DVC Larson, DC Bond, ADJ Muhle, Finance Chair Brad **, Historian Sadicario, Chaplain Smith

Chapter 2 – One Year Department History, 20 July 2025 to 20 July 2026

June 13, 2025. Silver Brigade Winner, Wisconsin, Nathan Bond (Post 102); Nancy Schnell Rivera (Post 477)

Received too late for the previous Department Yearbook, this item is brought forward.

” The American Legion is pleased to recognize Legionnaires for their outstanding membership recruiting efforts at the post level for the 2025 membership year. These Legionnaires are recipients of the Gold Brigade (recruited 50 or more new members), Silver Brigade (25-49 new members) and Bronze Brigade (15-24 new members) membership recruiting awards, and the National Recruiter of the Year.” (American Legion, 2025)

July 16-20, 2025. 106th Department Convention: July 16-20, 2025, was held at the Hyatt Regency Green Bay <https://wilegion.org/department-convention>. The 107th Department Convention will be held from July 15-18, 2026, at the Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton, WI.

Total votes cast: 278

Commander Nathan Bond (276)

Vice Commanders

Larry Larson (222)

Steven Kohnke (221)

David Steinert (207)

Rita Rindahl (168)

Sergeant-at-Arms

Aimee Korger (268)

July 19, 2025. Wisconsin Commanders’ photo taken at the 106th Convention, Green Bay.



(not in order as pictured) Julie Muhle <julie.muhle@wilegion.org>; orfywi@gmail.com <orfywi@gmail.com>; chiefkohnke@gmail.com <chiefkohnke@gmail.com>; WI Legion Commander <commander@wilegion.org>; djdmsteinert@gmail.com <djdmsteinert@gmail.com>; rita_usmc02@hotmail.com <rita_usmc02@hotmail.com>; kenflock61@gmail.com <kenflock61@gmail.com>; danh.obrien@hotmail.com <danh.obrien@hotmail.com>; larrylarson103@gmail.com <larrylarson103@gmail.com>; Andrew Minch <aminch7535@gmail.com>; John Stachowicz <johnnysapper@yahoo.com>

July 20, 2025. Department Executive Committee gathers for remaining actions and to confirm the Commander’s appointment of officers and committee members.

Department Adjutant Julie Muhle
 Department Chaplain Virgil Smith (437, Mazomanie)
 Department Historian Morris Sadicario (501, Madison)
 Finance Officer Brad **

Choice of Districts focus	
1, 2, 3	Steve Kohnke
4, 5, 7	Rita Rindahl
6, 8, 9	David Steinert
10, 11, 12	Larry Larson

July 30, 2025. National Appointment Process. Under PNC Denise's and PNC Dan's direction, the appointment guidelines will stress to Wisconsin Department Committee chairs be on the matching national committee/council if Wisconsin has a slot. This means the Department Commander has a part in some of the national appointments.

And District Commanders who recommend Legionnaires for Department Standing Committee appointment also have a hand in the process. Therefore, PNC Denise solicited recommendations to be presented at the National Convention. [Wisconsin National Appointment Guidelines](#)

August 1-3, 2025. Wisconsin State American Legion Softball Tournament.

Location: Edward Burns American Legion Post 46, Merrill, WI. Organizer and contact: Chad Krueger, [chadders@netzero.com]

All Games were played at the Merrill Area Recreational Complex (MARC), 1100 MARC Dr., Merrill, WI, 54452. the MARC has 6 softball fields with games being played on Fields 1 & 2 all weekend. We will also be using Field 3 just on Friday for a 12pm & 2pm game. After that the remaining 4 fields will be allowed for teams to use for warm-ups. There is also a batting cage between Fields 3 and 5.

August 3, 2025. AMERICAN LEGION POST 245 CROSS PLAINS-MIDDLETON MHS-LEGION BASEBALL TEAM, THE CARDINALS, WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP!



Figure 3 State Champions MHS Legion Baseball.

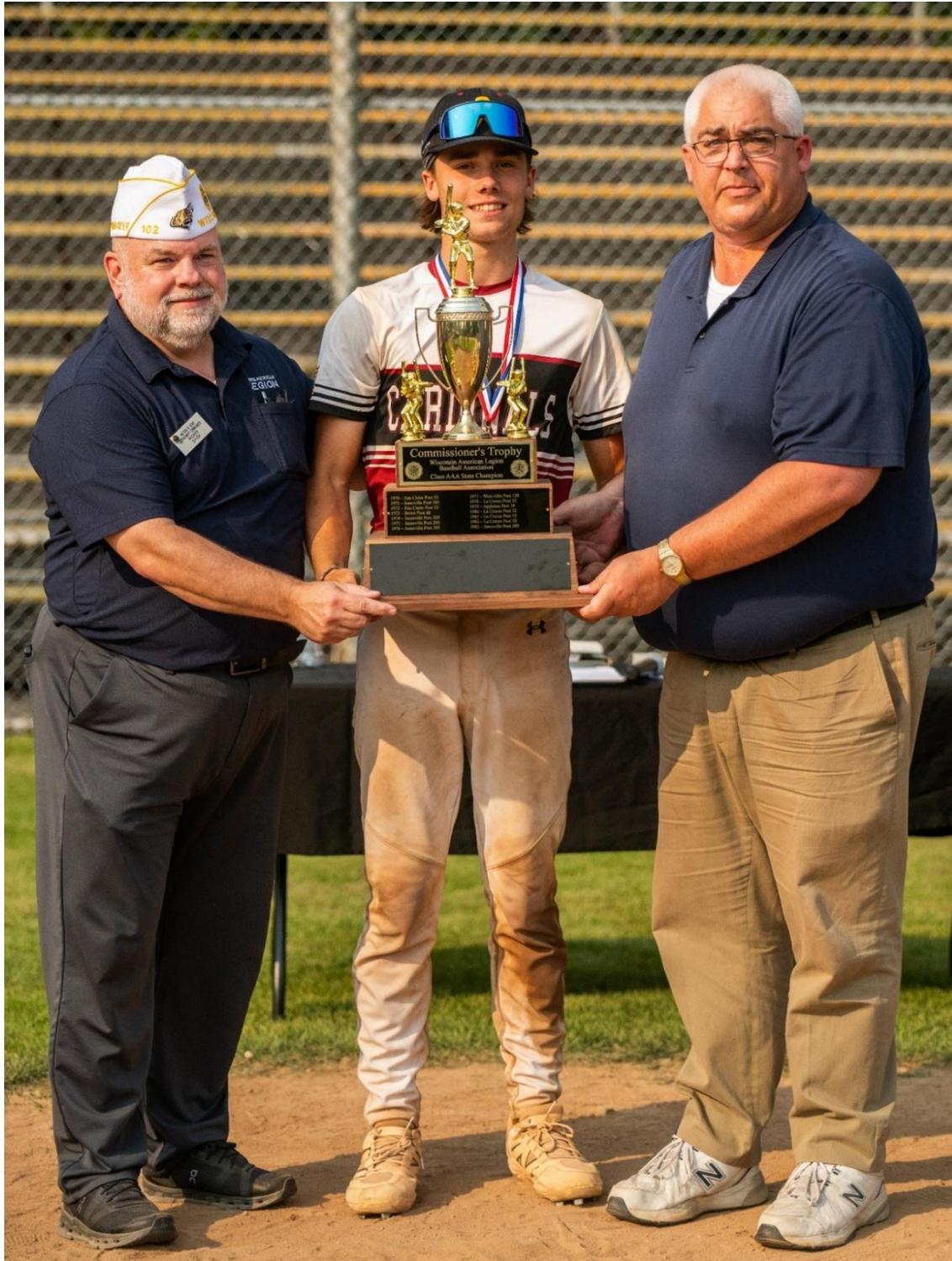


Figure 4 State Champions MHS Legion Baseball.

From left, Department Commander Nathan Bond, Koeplin Look, and Commissioner Dan Lukes.

August 27, 2025. The Wisconsin American Legion Family Is proud to support Jay Bowen of Colorado for National Commander 2026-2027. 🤝 us 😊 #myfriendsarecoolerthanyours #BeTheOne #veterans #friendsmakelifebetter #Wisconsin.



August 27, 2025. Breakfast Club 2.0.



August 30, 2025. At the 2025 Walworth County Fair with Len Jegerski and Bob Miller of Frank Kresen Post 24, Lake Geneva



August 31, 2025. At the National Convention, Tampa, FL.







September 5, 2025. The Central States caucus met during the 2025 National Convention in Tampa, FL.

The Central States caucus for The American Legion consists of nine departments: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. The caucus is one of the organization's regional divisions.

Osseo American Legion Post 324





September 6, 2025. Visiting with 12th District in Gordon, Hayward and Spooner.







September 7, 2025. Family Day Picnic, West Bend.

The American Legion Riders District #2 will be hosting a Family Day Picnic for the West Bend National Guard on Sept 7, 2025 at Regner Park in West Bend. This year we are expecting between 450 - 475 attendees. This event has been in place since 2016, with the exception of 2 Covid years, and has steadily become larger and larger each year. We are also partnering with our local American Legion Post - Lt. Ray Dickop Post 36, the Auxiliary unit and the Sons of the American Legion Squadron as well as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary of Fred A. Schaefer Post 1393 in West Bend!!! The mission is very simple: Hold a spectacular Family Day Event for the soldiers and their families. We hope to see you there!!

Tim Hansen, Corey Doehrmann WIALRAD2.President@gmail.com 262-305-5984,
hdsixpack@gmail.com

September 14, 2025. Barron County All Veteran's Picnic.

Barron County Commander Gerald Townsend will meet Commander Nathan, Vice Commander Larry Larson, and Department Historian Morris at this gathering.



Barron County Commander Gerald Townsend 1887 21st Ave Rice Lake Wi, 54868-9502 715-651-1403, invited the Department Commander to the BARRON COUNTY ALL VETERAN'S PICNIC on September 14th in Cameron, WI. Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and families in general gathered here to meet, greet and laugh. - Did I mention there was food? Mmm-mm. Commander Nathan Bond came with one reinforcement, his Department Historian, Morris Sadicario. There were three tents full of people. There was also a gun raffle, and a PIONEER VILLAGE!



Figure 5 David Schiedler and Penny Crodaiere 14 SEP 25

Here are David Schiedler and Penny Crodaiere (AKA Dave & Cupcakes). They are jolly because they are at the Barron County Picnic!

[Related information: Gerald Townsend, 1887 21st Ave., Rice Lake WI 54868-9502, 715.651.1403]

September 17, 2025. Observation posted on Facebook by Commander Bond.

“The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either -- but right through every human heart -- and through all human hearts.”
Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

We all have the capacity for both good and evil. If we each fail to recognize our own capacity for evil we are each likely to commit some form of it. If we fail to recognize the capacity for good in others—especially those we disagree with dehumanizing them and in so doing ourselves.

September 18, 2025. Recognition of American Legion Baseball All-Stars. Held at Cross Plains Post 245. Attending were Department Historian Morris Sadicario.

September 18, 2025. Both Department Legislative Committee Chair Nathan Coward and Department Commander Nathan Bond were on hand to provide their positive comments in hopes of propelling the bill forward. The bill promotes three goals, add official University of Wisconsin funding for the Missing-in-Action Recovery and Identification Program, increase funding for the Chippewa Falls Veterans Housing and Recovery Program, and reduce the property tax burden for veterans with an 80% or greater disability rating. Representatives from other groups, notably from the Veterans of Foreign Wars lent their voices in favor of this bill.

Testified today before the Wisconsin Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Veterans and Military Affairs, with our Legislative Committee Chair, Nathan Coward. We spoke in support of SB411 which addresses funding for the University of Wisconsin Missing In Action Recovery Identification Program, the Veterans Housing and Recovery Program, and expansion of the Disabled Veterans Property Tax Credit.



Figure 6 Legislative Committee Chair Nathan Coward and Commander Nathan Bond regarding SB411. 18 SEP 25.

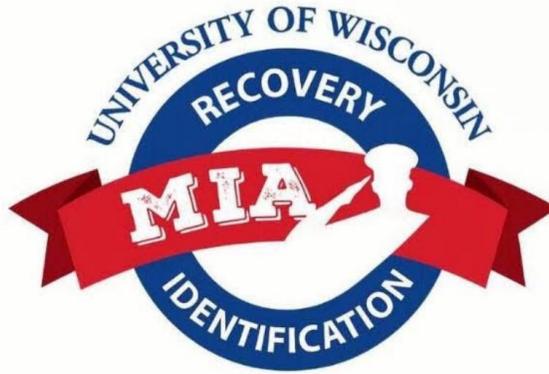
September 18, 2025.

With members of the Ralph Amundson Post 30, Edgerton, Wisconsin, Local Legion Family at the Open House for their new Post home (on 9/17/25). Thank you for a pleasant visit and some great lemonade.



September 19, 2025. Fundraiser for the UW MIA Repatriation Program.

UW-MIA RECOVERY AND IDENTIFICATION PROJECT **BOURBON BARREL RELEASE FUNDRAISER**



MEAL PROVIDED
BY MISSION
BBQ, MADISON



\$100/Person
(1 Bottle & 1 meal)

\$150/Couple
(2 meals & 1 bottle/couple)

In attendance were Department Historian Morris Sadicario.







September 27, 2025. Celebration of Freedom Golf Outing takes place in Portage.

<https://wilegion.org/celebration-of-freedom>

October 10-11, 2025. Department Fall Meeting, Portage, WI.

October 23, 2025. Possible Joint resolution recognizing Veterans Day in Wisconsin. WI Legion Commander.

If this is a last-minute announcement that there will be a Senate—or Joint—Resolution proposed for officially recognizing 11/11/2025 as Veterans Day in Wisconsin, there won't be a hearing scheduled.

I will try to be there. I would like the opportunity to thank the legislators and, if possible, make a statement to the press that it's important to recognize the service and sacrifice of our Wisconsinites who served in the military, so important that the Legislature should make it a permanent State Holiday. (Nathan)

October 25, 2025. Addressing the County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers of Wisconsin. These dedicated people are key partners in making sure our veterans and their families receive their earned benefits.



October 25, 2025. 2nd District Fall Conference.







10 November 2025.

Department Historian Morris Sadicario celebrated Edgewood University's 15th Annual Military and Veterans Appreciation Luncheon on Monday, November 10th. This gathering is Edgewood's appreciation of current service members, veterans, and their families. Director Matthew J. Schroeder (USMC) heads the University's Office of Military and Veteran Services. (email: VeteransOffice@Edgewood.ed). Matthew said that over the past 15 years, more than 500 veterans have studied at Edgewood University.

(10 NOV 25, photo taken by luncheon participant)



Figure 7 Director Matthew J. Schroeder (USMC) heads the University's Office of Military and Veteran Services

13 November 2025. The Army-Navy Game



Among those attending the Army-Navy Game Watch Party at Verona Post 385 were Commander Nathan and Dane County Commander Scott. Photo by PNC Denise.



December 13, 2025. At Verona Post 385 for the Army-Navy Game watch. PNC Rohan is left, foreground.

December 13, 2025. Wreaths across America at Two Rivers, WI.



© Dave Melancon

Department Commander Nathan Bond attended the ceremony.

December 24, 2025. Happy Birthday Lady Leathernecks!

Happy Birthday Lady Leathernecks!

"They are Marines!"



.During World War II, the U.S. called on women to become an even larger part of the Marine Corps. In February 1943, the Marine Corps Women's Reserve was established. On June 12th in the same year, Congress passed the "Women's Armed Services Integration Act" and made women a permanent part of the regular Marine Corps. Since then, Women Marines have continually enlisted and transformed Marine Corps history through vast Achievements, recognition of Valor and Honor, and immeasurable accomplishments that showcase their boundless influence.

(Rita Rindahl)



January 6, 2026. Commander Bond visits the Chippewa Falls VA Home.

January 8, 2026. Commander Bond visits Union Grove VA Home.

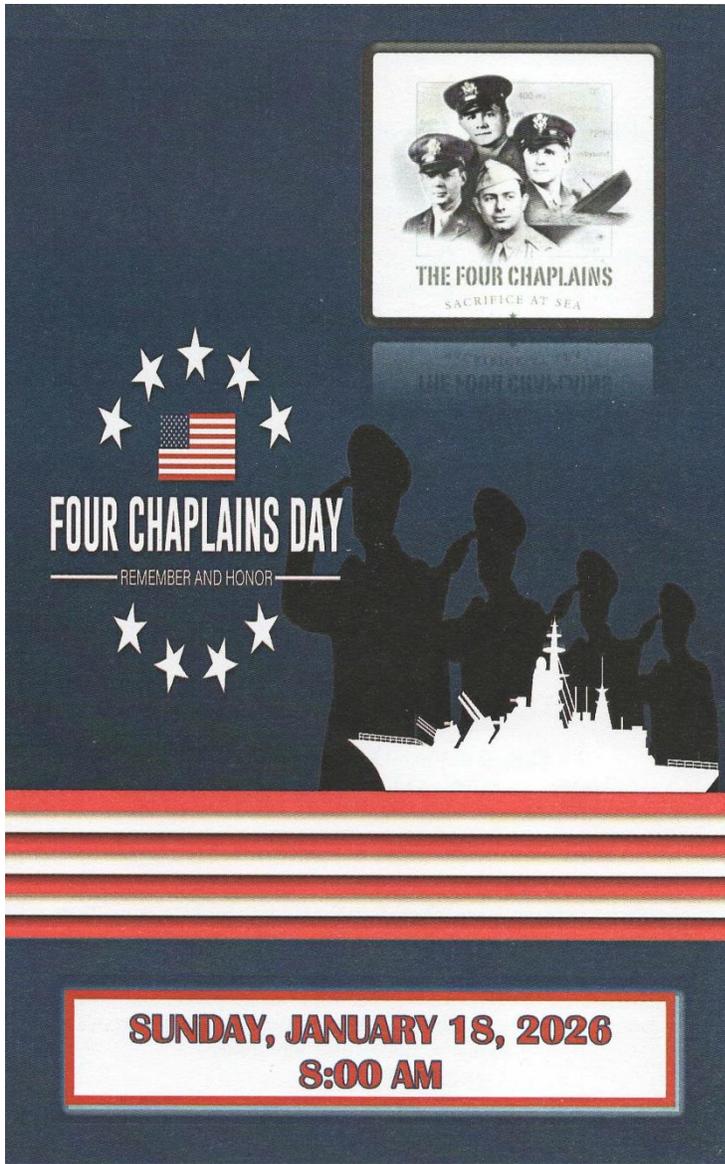
January 12, 2026. Department Leadership Meeting.

January 12, 2026. District Commanders Meeting.

January 13, 2026. Department of Wisconsin American Legion Membership meeting.

January 15-18, 2026. Midwinter Conference.

January 19, 2026. Midwinter Four Chaplains Memorial Service



SERVICE

Pledge of Allegiance: Sons of The American Legion

Invocation: Virgil Smith
Department Chaplain

The Four Chaplains: Darrell "AJ" Feucht
Religious Emphasis Committee Chair

Scripture Reading: Virgil Smith
Department Chaplain

Memorial Address: Virgil Smith
Department Chaplain

Benediction: Virgil Smith
Department Chaplain

Taps:

Closing Remarks: Virgil Smith
Department Chaplain

TOGETHER THEY SERVED

Lt. George L Fox ~ Lt. Alexander D. Goode
Lt. John P. Washington ~ Lt. Clark V. Poling

ACTS OF HEROISM

As the ship went down, the Four Chaplains took immediate action to help others. They distributed life jackets to soldiers and, when their supply ran out, they selflessly gave their own life jackets to others. Witnesses reported that the chaplains joined arms, offered prayers, and sang hymns as the ship sank beneath them. Their calm presence provided comfort to many in their final moments.

January 21, 2026. William S. Middleton VA Hospital, Madison.



Foreground, from left, VA Ambassador and PDVC Jerry Hook, Department Historian Morris Sadicario, Executive Director Wm Middleton VA Hospital Christine Kleckner, Auxiliary Department President Suzanne Hembrook, and SAL Detachment Commander Christopher Dannenmann. Back row, from left, Volunteer Sheila, Department Vice Commander Steve Kohnke, and Department Chaplain Virgil Smith. *January 21st, 2026, Madison, WI.*

At our periodic meeting, we met to ensure that the VA Health Center goals remained aligned with those of the American Legion and to identify ways we could improve our mutual support. We learned about the April groundbreaking of the Madison Fisher House for families awaiting medical therapy or diagnoses. The Middleton VA Hospital continued to receive the Five-Star rating, an impressive accomplishment! In the photo, President Hembrook presented Executive Director Christine Kleckner with eighty \$25 VISA gift cards as the Department President's special gift to the Hospital. This donation is intended for social workers to distribute to veterans in financial need, especially those who may be suffering from food insecurity or need help purchasing gas to get to medical appointments.

January 27, 2026. Central Region Monthly Meeting.

January 28, 2026. Oconto County Veterans Breakfast.

January 29, 2026. Public Hearing, AB641, Wisconsin State Capitol.

(Department Historian, attending and testifying). Proposal: AB641 (LRB-5254) relating to: the University of Wisconsin Missing-in-Action Recovery and Identification Project and making an appropriation. DH Sadicario's statement is attached as an Appendix.

January 31, 2026. Wisconsin State Law Enforcement Education Conference.

(DVC Steven Kohnke)



Figure 8 DVC Kohnke with Legion Rider Jeff



Figure 9 DVC Kohnke, Mary Kohnke and Legion Rider Jeff



Figure 10 DVC Kohnke and Rider Jeff



Figure 11 At the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Education Conference, Chula Vista Resort in the Wisconsin Dells

January 31, 2026. Membership workbook awards - Post Honor Ribbon and Certificate of Meritorious Service.

February 1, 2026. Four Chaplains Service. 2nd and 4th Districts were present; DVC Steven and Mary Kohnke were present. A buffet was held after the service.

Four Chaplains
83rd Anniversary Memorial Service



Sunday, February 1, 2026
1:00 PM
Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center Chapel
5000 W. National Avenue
Milwaukee, WI. 53295



February 1, 2026. Eleva American Legion, Post 459 sponsored Wisconsin Amvets Chapter 1, 1st Annual Chili Cook-Off Contest.



Figure 12 DVC Rita Rindahl at Post 459

February 5, 2026. Rita Rindahl.





Helen Lyga took 2nd place at the Chili Cook-Off. Photo submitted by Brian Lyga. The event contact person was Wayne Guenther, (715) 533-1990. DVC Rita Rindahl attended.



Figure 13 Helen Lyga, 2nd place Chili Cook-Off

February 7, 2026. Four Chaplains Ceremony at Van Ells-Schanen Post 82.



February 8, 2026. At the VFW Midwinter Conference.

February 8, 2026. DVC Kohnke at Annual Hunter's Dinner

Saturday at H.A. Todd American Legion Post 537 in Milwaukee at their annual Hunter's Dinner with entertainment by the Milwaukee Croatian Tamburica. Next three photos.









In attendance were Jerry Hook and others.

February 8, 2026. American Legion Post 366 in Princeton, Wisconsin, for the American Legion Riders Association of Wisconsin (ALRAWI) State Quarterly Meeting.



Figure 14 Quarterly Meeting of ALRAWI drew a good turnout. 2-8-26.







Figure 15 Ken Rynes, 2-8-26.



Figure 16 DVC Kohnke addressing the group. 2-8-26.

February 8, 2026. We finished off our Saturday at H.A. Todd American Legion Post 537 in Milwaukee at their annual Hunter's Dinner with entertainment by the Milwaukee Croatian Tamburica. My pictures don't do justice to the number of people that attended! The place was packed.

February 9, 2026. District Commanders Meeting.

February 10, 2026. Osseo American Legion Post 324 monthly meeting. DVC Rita Rindahl with Post Adjutant Julieann.



February 10, 2026. General membership meeting at American Legion Post 67 in Lake Mills, Wisconsin, followed by an Operation Namesake commemoration for post namesakes Clarence Bean and Warren George.



Operation Namesake

Honoring the Heroes Behind Our Post

"Learn the inspiring stories of Clarence Bean and Warren George, the brave veterans who gave their lives for our freedom – and for whom Post 67 proudly carries their name."

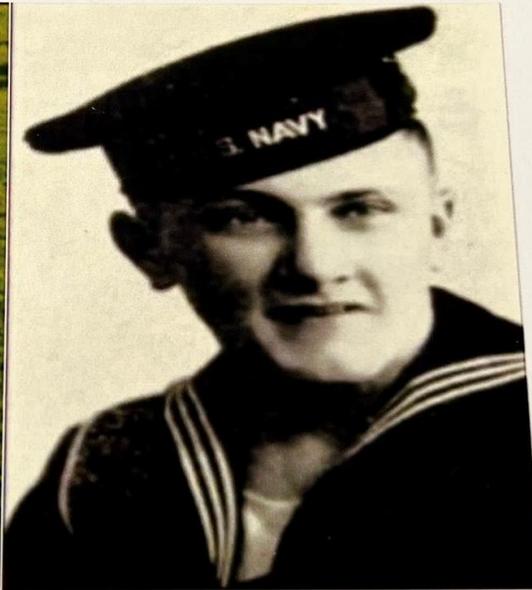




Figure 17 DVC Kohnke attended.







Figure 18 Outside Lake Mills Post 67.

February 12, 2026.

Thursday, we had the privilege of attending the American Legion of Wisconsin Trempealeau County Council meeting in Arcadia, Wisconsin, where we were inspired by the outstanding community service and achievements of the Posts. 🇺🇸 We also snuck in some sightseeing before the meeting









Happy Birthday Lady Leathernecks!

"They are Marines!"



SAME TEAM  **NEW MISSION**

 **WINNEBAGO DETACHMENT #357**
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
4715 Sherman Road, Oshkosh 

February 13, 2026. White caps at Wisconsin HQ, Portage.



Figure 19 DVCs Steinert, Rindahl and Kohnke with Department Adjutant Muhle. 2-13-26.



Figure 20 Deciding who will turn the drum!



Figure 21 Turning the Great Drum!



Figure 22 Office Heroines Connie and Sheri! 2-13-26.

February 11-12, 2026. Lincoln Pilgrimage.



The American Legion, Lincoln Pilgrimage—Springfield Illinois—with Marshall Wisconsin Post 279 Senior Member, Pete Ponti, and National American Legion Family leaders.

As the keynote speaker at the 92nd annual Pilgrimage to President Lincoln’s Tomb Thursday, American Legion National Commander Dan K. Wiley explained the unique legacy left by the 16th president.

“The abolishment of slavery remains a central part of any discussion about the life of Abraham Lincoln,” Wiley said. “Yet, he was not our first president to speak against this ugly institution. Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams also opposed the practice. Lincoln’s predecessor, James Buchanan, called slavery a ‘political and moral evil,’ though he supported policies to keep it in place. But Lincoln was unlike other politicians. He truly recognized not just

that slavery was wrong, but that Black people deserved the same dignity and respect as all other Americans.”

Wiley then pointed to the 14th and 15th amendments granting citizenship and expanding voting rights as part of Lincoln’s legacy that continues long after his death.

American Legion Post 32 in Springfield, Ill., has led the longest running annual observance held on Lincoln’s birthday since 1935. At least 14 departments were represented at this year’s pilgrimage.



Figure 23 Wisconsin Legion Commander Bond lays a wreath at the tomb of President Abraham Lincoln along with Wisconsin Sons of The American Legion Commander, Chris Dannenmann.

Laying a wreath at the tomb of President Abraham Lincoln along with Wisconsin Sons of The American Legion Commander, Chris Dannenmann.

February 13-14, 2026. Freezin’ for a Reason, Hartland Post 294.



OPERATION HOMELESS VETERANS!

7th Annual

Sleep Out For Our Veterans

Legion Post 294 at 231 Goodwin Ave., Hartland

FEBRUARY 13TH & 14TH 2026

50/50
RAFFLES

Featuring

Myles Wangerin

Friday Night 7pm to 10pm

Alex & Jenn

Saturday 2pm to 5pm

Nice Rack

Saturday Night 7pm to 10pm

RAFFLE
BASKETS



Figure 24 Freezin' for a Reason, 2-13-26. Photo by Mary Kohnke.

As we bundled up for 'Freezin for a Reason' at American Legion Post 294 in Hartland, Wisconsin, camping out from Friday into Saturday, the stark reality of homelessness profoundly resonated with us, igniting compassion and action.





February 16, 2026. 97th Annual George Washinton Luncheon.

The Milwaukee County Conference of Units held its 97th Annual Luncheon. The event is sponsored by the Auxiliary.



Figure 25 From left, SAL Commander Chris, Legion Commander Nathan, Auxiliary Preseident Sue, and Riders Commander Corey.

February 21, 2026. District 3 Holiday Party. Verona American Legion Post 385.

February 24, 2026. Central Region Monthly Meeting.

February 27-March 5, 2026. Washington Conference.

March 14, 2027. Wells-Davis-Young-Neal Post 209 Legion Birthday Party.

March 19, 2026. Coon Valley Legion, Coon Valley, WI 54623.

Chapter 3 - Commander's Corner

1. 20250814 Legacy Forward: Embracing Family First in the American Legion
2. 20250820 Goals for this Legion Year.
3. Have you been to BASIC TRAINING?
4. The Line Separating Good and Evil

Legacy Forward: Embracing Family First in the Legion Family

A key component of forwarding our legacy in the American Legion lies in the principle of “Family First.” National Commander Dan Wiley’s motto, “Better Together!” (#BetterTogether), encapsulates this vision perfectly. Our collective strength as the Local Legion Family—encompassing Post, Unit, and Squadron—far surpasses what we can achieve individually.

Consider our American Legion Riders as a prime example. These dedicated members, drawn from the entire Legion Family, unite with shared objectives. By pooling their diverse knowledge, skills, and abilities, they achieve remarkable success and embody the true spirit of collaboration. Like many families, some Local Legion Families have historical challenges to address. It’s crucial to transform past lessons into opportunities for future growth. We owe it to future generations to impart lessons of forgiveness, trust, healing, and overcoming adversity.

Taking the first step forward is vital. The legacy of the Legion Family transcends individual ambitions. Leaders, it’s your role to initiate this forward movement. Be the first to forgive or to seek forgiveness. The greatest leaders are not only confident but also humble. If someone seeks your forgiveness, be gracious enough to extend it. This doesn’t mean accepting bullying or disrespect—boundaries and mutual respect are essential. However, grace and mercy are vital for the Family’s growth.

Here’s how you can take steps forward today:

- **Initiate Dialogue:** Start conversations within your Local Legion Family to address past issues and build trust.
- **Model Forgiveness:** Show others the power of forgiveness through your actions.
- **Set Boundaries:** Establish clear boundaries to maintain respect and understanding.
- **Promote Unity:** Encourage collaboration across the entire Local Legion Family to achieve common goals. Try a small joint project/event that you plan together, coordinate together, conduct together, and learn from together.

Let’s ensure our legacy is one of unity and progress. Please let me know how your Department can support you in being “Better Together.”

Goals for this Legion Year

"People do what the boss checks up on." Command-Sergeant-Major Sergio Riddle was the first person I remember hearing state that, though I am sure it's a much older concept. Over the years, I have found that to be an absolute truism. So, how do we apply that here in the Wisconsin American Legion.

Always remember, we are leading volunteers not Military Service-Members. Holding people accountable CANNOT be done in the same way we did while we were in the military.

What we can do:

- We can help leaders set goals for themselves and their Posts.
- We can help them develop metrics to measure their success in achieving those goals.
- We can ask questions about their progress towards achieving their goals.
- We can ask for those answers to be in writing.

Here are some goals for you:

- Get your County Commanders to use the Administrative Manual for running their meetings <http://bit.ly/3Jfkd40>
- Get your County Commanders to collect monthly CPR reports from their Posts (see Admin Manual).
- Make sure your County Commanders have a copy of all their posts' Post Officer Reports. PLEASE DO NOT accept the answers "It was sent to Portage/Headquarters/etcetera," or "There was no change." They need a copy in their hands—you should have a copy in your hands also.
- Meet regularly with ALL of Your County Commanders as a group via Zoom (or google-meet or other conferencing software). Just to make sure everyone is on the same sheet of music.
- Attend EVERY County Council Meeting (or your Vice Commanders).
- Get your County Commanders to host a Buddy Check event. Help them with the organization of the event, making sure they have all the tools necessary to make it successful. Please attend the event (yourself or one of your Vice Commanders). Let's accomplish this before Veterans Day, PLEASE INVITE ME and your Department Vice Commander also.
- Do a random Buddy Check of at least one member of your District every day (okay not on Christmas, New Year, and other holidays). If during that Buddy Check you determine one of our members has a need, please be sure that someone in their Post knows about it and please follow up with Post Leadership and that member; please make sure that their need was met.
- Establish a District Membership Chair. Have that leader take responsibility for 2930 Transfers and for helping Posts conduct outreach/recruiting events.
- Participate as District Commander in at least ONE (1) Outreach/Recruiting Event each quarter.

-100% of CPRs for the year should be to you (copy in your hands) on April 10, 2026. The reporting period for Posts throughout the Department is from 04/02/2025 to 04/01/2026. I don't care that the form says something different, this is our Department Reporting period.

Over the next couple of weeks, the Department Vice Commanders, Department Adjutant, and I will send you a report format for you to use in our monthly zoom meetings. You will be getting an invite for those monthly meetings from Adjutant Julie soon.

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT

Thank you,
Nathan M. Bond
Commander
The American Legion
Department of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 388
Portage, WI 53901
(m) 262-215-3481

Have you been to BASIC Training?

White Caps and Legion Family Leaders! Share as far and wide with our Wisconsin American Legion Family as possible! Feel free to substitute your own cringe worthy boot camp (basic training) photo and update the text as necessary.

CRINGE ! !



Nathan June 1989.jpg

Yes, that's me back in 1989. Most of us Legionnaires have one of these cringe worthy photos. Look at those eyebrows... Look at them! All of us went through boot camp (basic training). But have you taken American Legion Basic Training? Do you know when we were founded? Do you know who came up with the idea of The American Legion? What are the Four Pillars? What the heck does the Adjutant do anyway?

Learn the basics here:

<https://register.legion.org/alei>

Register for this self-paced, on-line course that will give you knowledge you need to make your American Legion experience all that it can be.

Please register and take the course today!

<https://register.legion.org/alei>

Whether you've been a Legionnaire for 5 days, 5 years, or 55 years, you'll learn something new! This course isn't just for Legionnaires, members of The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion are welcome to take the course as well.

Also check out our Wisconsin American Legion College:

www.wilegion.org/legion-college

The Line Separating Good and Evil,
September 17, 2025

“The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either -- but right through every human heart -- and through all human hearts.”
Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

We all have the capacity for both good and evil. If we each fail to recognize our own capacity for evil, we are each likely to commit some form of it. If we fail to recognize the capacity for good in others, especially those we disagree with, we dehumanize them and, in so doing, ourselves.

Goals for this Legion Year, August 20, 2025

"People do what the boss checks up on." Command-Sergeant-Major Sergio Riddle was the first person I remember hearing state that, though I am sure it's a much older concept. Over the years, I have found that to be an absolute truism. So, how do we apply that here in the Wisconsin American Legion.

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Commander's Membership Incentives



Mission Impact



THE AMERICAN LEGION IS THE NATION'S LARGEST VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION

45,175 MEMBERS

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION

HOSTS 1000+ VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES EACH SEASON AT NO COST TO THEM



LEGION WI SERVICE OFFICE

\$68 MILLION MONTHLY VETERAN COMPENSATION | **EARNED BENEFITS RECEIVED ANNUALLY \$800 MILLION**

46,000+ VETERANS SERVED

3702 VOLUNTEER HOURS DONATIONS TOTALING **\$133K** ANNUALLY | **500 POSTS** STATEWIDE

7,809 BLOOD DRIVE DONATIONS | AVERAGE ANNUAL VETERAN HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER HOURS **25.5k**



OUR MISSION
“ To provide service to veterans, their families and their communities ”

3rd largest Legion Baseball program in the country
Over 220 Teams with 3900+ players each season

LEGION SOFTBALL
• 30+ teams
• Low registration costs
• Community Based

8,900+ YOUTH REACHED EACH YEAR THROUGH OUR PROGRAMS

- BADGER BOYS STATE
- AL BASEBALL/SOFTBALL
- ORATORICAL
- SCOUTING
- COUNTY YOUTH GOVERNMENT DAY
- JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS
- LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREER ACADEMY
- AMERICANISM AND GOVERNMENT TEST

OVER \$34K IN SCHOLARSHIPS ANNUALLY

FOUNDED ON 4 PILLARS
VETERANS DEFENSE AMERICANISM YOUTH



CELEBRATE & EDUCATE

American Legion Family Youth Programs advance civics and responsible citizenship for our nation's 250th anniversary and beyond.



ORATORICAL CONTEST

The American Legion Oratorical Contest challenges high school students to explore and understand the U.S. Constitution while developing confidence, leadership and communication skills. National contestants compete for more than \$200,000 in scholarships each year.



BOYS STATE/BOYS NATION

American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation are government-education programs that have shaped thousands of careers in public service and leadership since 1935. Boys State offers students entering their senior year a glimpse into how government functions in a democracy. Two delegates from each Boys State program are selected to attend Boys Nation, where they form and operate a mock federal government, visit congressional delegations, military leaders and The White House to enrich their understanding of U.S. leadership.



GIRLS STATE/GIRLS NATION

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State and Girls Nation closely mirror American Legion Boys State/Boys Nation, for students entering their senior years of high school seeking understanding about participation in government. Two delegates from each ALA Girls State program are chosen each year to participate in Girls Nation in Washington, D.C. Participants leave with "leadership lessons for life" and an understanding of the fundamentals of U.S. government, rights, privileges, and responsibilities of citizens.



AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

More than 10 million young athletes have since 1925 learned the principles of sportsmanship, teamwork, discipline, fitness and responsible citizenship through the American Legion Baseball program.

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is a gun-safety education and marksmanship program that encompasses the basic elements of safety, education, enjoyment, competition and citizenship.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY EDUCATIONAL CONTESTS

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST: The Americanism Essay Contest of the American Legion Auxiliary teaches students the value of patriotism and what it means to be Americans. Students (grades 3 to 12) explore the fundamental rights and freedoms, following a theme.

Current Theme: "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans who Fought for Our Freedom."

POPPY POSTER CONTEST:

American Legion Auxiliary units sponsor poppy poster contests in local schools across the country for schools and youth groups. Seven classes of contestants are available.



FUN WAYS TO LEARN ABOUT OUR FLAG

The American Legion publishes comic and activity books about the U.S. flag, veterans and the founding values of our nation. Many items can be ordered in bulk at discounted prices for classrooms or youth groups.

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE: Early readers will learn the meaning behind the Pledge and the freedoms it symbolizes.

LIGHT OF LIBERTY: Advanced elementary-age readers meet a Revolutionary War minuteman who tells how and why America achieved independence and the rights and responsibilities of all U.S. citizens.

OUR COUNTRY'S FLAG: Set on the 4th of July, preteens learn the story of our nation's colors and how to properly display the flag.

OUR COUNTRY'S VETERANS: As a veterans memorial is dedicated, young people learn from one who served the importance of protecting our freedoms.

RISE OF OUR FLAG: The epic story of our nation's flag is illustrated in a "graphic novel" format for teen and adult readers who discover the reason behind The American Legion's sacred ceremonies to retire U.S. flags when their useful days are over.

INDIVISIBLE: THE STORY OF OUR FLAG: A 116-page, photo-filled bookazine shows the complete story of our nation's flag.

Also available are flag decals, pins, stick flags, copies of U.S. Flag Code and pocket-sized U.S. Constitutions and Declarations of Independence.

Order online at emblem.legion.org
Or call (888) 453-4466



For more information and how to participate visit legion.org/usa250 or scan the QR code



Quotes of Note

” Every member is a voice, and together, our voices can and do make a significant difference.” – Mike Rohan (2025)

Commander Visit Request

1. West Bend Veterans
- 2.

Commander Visit Request

Email hdsixpack@gmail.com

Date and time of event **9/7/2025**

Address of event

Regner Park 800 Main Street West Bend, WI 53090

Occasion and type of appearance: post, county, district, club/civic affair/other

The American Legion Riders District #2 will be hosting a Family Day Picnic for the West Bend National Guard on Sept 7, 2025 at Regner Park in West Bend. This year we are expecting between 450 - 475 attendees. This event has been in place since 2016, with the exception of 2 Covid years, and has steadily become larger and larger each year. We are also partnering with our local American Legion Post - Lt. Ray Dickop Post 36, the Auxiliary unit and the Sons of the American Legion Squadron as well as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary of Fred A. Schaefer Post 1393 in West Bend!!! The mission is very simple: Hold a spectacular Family Day Event for the soldiers and their families. We hope to see you there!!

Who will compose the audience? legionnaires, auxiliary, general public/youth group

Soldiers and their families from the West Bend National Guard, and volunteers from: American Legion Riders District #2 members, Legion and Auxiliary members, and VFW and Auxiliary members.

Will the commander be the main speaker? will the commander function in other capacities?

The Commander is welcome to attend. We do not expect a speech or anything like that -- we'd love for him to be there and be acknowledged, but not needing to speak to the audience.

Does the event allow for the commander to bring a guest?

yes

Type of attire? (coat/tie, polo shirt, etc) is the event a dinner, luncheon or other gathering?

This is a picnic. There is no need to come in dress attire. Legion shirt and cap (if you desire) is all we ask.

If the commander is unable to attend, do you want a vice commander?

Yes, please allow Vice Commander and Guest to attend

What media, if any, will be present? is there a press conference arranged? is the department historian invited?

no press conference / no media

Name of the person who will meet the commander and name of person extending the invitation

Tim Hansen

Name and contact of post/county/district and any other information that will be of assistance

Corey Doehrmann WIALRAD2.President@gmail.com 262-305-5984

Communications

1. Letter from Wisconsin VA Secretary James Bond, 2025 JUL 25, with recognition and congratulations for Commander Bond's election.



July 23, 2025

Commander Nathan Bond
American Legion
2930 American Legion Drive
PO Box 388
Portage, WI 53901

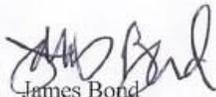
Dear Commander Bond,

As the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, it is my pleasure to congratulate you on your election as the Commander to the American Legion of Wisconsin.

I look forward to collaborating with you to strengthen the solid partnership between our two organizations as we work on behalf of thousands of Wisconsin veterans and their families. I am continually grateful for the hard work you and your members annually commit to deliver for our state's veterans.

My best wishes to you, and again, congratulations!

Sincerely,



James Bond
Secretary

Works Cited

American Legion. (2025, June 13). *Information Center*. Retrieved from American Legion:
[https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/dispatch/2025/june/162-
legionnaires-recognized-for-recruiting-success](https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/dispatch/2025/june/162-
legionnaires-recognized-for-recruiting-success)

Legion, A. (2021). *History: American Legion*. Retrieved from American Legion:
<https://www.legion.org/history>

Commander's Biography

Wisconsin American Legion Commander, Nathan Morgan Bond, is a 25-year veteran of the US Army, who retired in 2013. Following his military service, Nathan dedicated 11 years to supporting fellow veterans as the Walworth County Veterans Service Officer, before stepping down to take a leadership role with the Wisconsin American Legion in early 2025.

Nathan and his wife, Julie, reside in Williams Bay, where they manage a family business on Geneva Lake. They are proud parents of two sons: Christopher, currently a mechanical engineering student at the Governor Austin Peay State University of Tennessee, with aspirations of being an Army Officer; and Caleb, who remains a cherished memory.

A 20-year, paid-up-for-life member of The American Legion, Nathan has held numerous leadership positions, including Post Adjutant, Post Commander, County Service officer, District Commander, and Department Vice-Commander. His commitment extends to the National level, where he has contributed to both the Legislative and the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Councils. Julie shares his dedication as a paid-up-for-life member of the Auxiliary, and Christopher hopes to become a Charter-Member of Squadron 102.

Nathan's educational background includes degrees from the University of New Hampshire, the US Army Command and General Staff College, and the Department of Defense Information School. He describes himself as "The hardest working C-student they ever gave a diploma to."

Beyond his professional endeavors, Nathan actively serves his community. He has been a deacon of his church, a trustee of Faith Christian School, and currently holds roles as Adjutant of VFW Post 2373 and Membership Chair of Post 102. His passion for serving veterans and their families is unwavering. With over a decade of committed service, my core competencies revolve around leadership, public relations, and veteran advocacy, particularly at The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin. My mission is to empower veterans and their families and to strengthen our communities, our State, and our Nation. The values of service, integrity, and community guide my actions, ensuring alignment with our organizational goals and culture. My diverse background contributes to a rich perspective, enhancing the team's collective efforts.

Appendix

1. Testimony at public Hearing, January 29, 2026.



**The American Legion
Department of
Wisconsin**

**Presentation to the Veterans and
Military Affairs Committee
Public Hearing
RE: AB641
11:00am 417 North (GAR)**

Good morning, Representatives of the Veterans and Military Affairs Committee, and my partners in governance.

My name is Morris Sadicario, I reside in Madison, Wisconsin, and am a member of the Wisconsin American Legion. I am speaking in favor of AB641 (SB615). I serve as the Department Historian and am a member of the American Legion Legislative Committee. I serve as Historian and Adjutant for my post, Severson-Cairns Legion Post 501 in Madison.

I welcome this opportunity to present my personal views. Today, I confine my comment to recommending that a dedicated budget be established with appropriate appropriation.

The Wisconsin Idea: One of the longest and deepest traditions surrounding the University of Wisconsin, it is a general principle that education should influence people's lives beyond the classroom. [source: Wisc.edu]

In this vein, bringing missing heroes home is the mission of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Missing in Action Recovery and Identification Project (UW MIA RIP) that operates within the UW-Madison Biotechnology Center. Source: <https://wisconsinidea.wisc.edu/project/1257>)

The UW MIA RIP group comprises a team of students, professors, and many others who volunteer their time to travel to sites around the globe to find and return the remains of Wisconsin soldiers lost in war. Thanks to their work, the remains of U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Henry Lee Stevens were recovered, positively identified, and honored at his funeral. According to information on their website, there have been four other successful repatriations.

In my current role as Executive Director of the Wisconsin Historians Association (WHA), I recommended Team Leader Konsitzke to receive the Martha Marlowe Historian Award. The WHA unanimously voted to confirm his nomination. He will receive this award at the 107th Department Convention, to be held July 15th through the 19th in Appleton, WI. Incidentally, the 108th Department Convention will be held here in Madison, July 21st to 25th, 2027.

The human impact of the UW MIA RIP program is clear. Wisconsin communities see that every possible effort is being made to bring our Wisconsin heroes home. Our institutions, people, and community are proving to veterans of the past and yet to come that our word is good. As a veteran, I am glad that our words are good.

Such beneficial work does not come free. My capitalist sense suggests that we all play a part in seeing that the UW MIA RIP group can continue its operational support, travel, and research. Please continue soliciting private donations while providing the team with coverage for basic fixed costs. I support, and I respectfully ask that you support, a dedicated budget as recommended in LRB Fiscal Estimate Number 25-5254/1 (Assembly).

Thank you for this opportunity. I am happy to answer your questions.

Respectfully submitted:

Morris Sadicario, Historian

The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin

Res: 5101 Retana Dr, Madison, WI 53714

Gphone: 608.616.9174

Email: morris.sadicario@gmail.com

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