



THE THIRD DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER



THE INFORMER

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LEGIONNAIRE'S FALL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 23rd—BARNEVELD POST

REGISTRATION 8AM / CONFERENCE STARTS AT 9AM

LUNCH—CHICKEN, HAM, POTATOES, VEGETABLE, ROLL AND DESSERT—\$10.00

MUST RSVP BY OCTOBER 16TH

SEND RESERVATION AND YOUR CHECK TO:

BARNEVELD AMERICAN LEGION
PO BOX 36



SPRING CONFERENCE - APRIL 30, 2022

Auxiliary will meet at Century Hall - 213 E Front St., #B—Wauzeka
and the Legion will meet at the Fire Station -200 McCloskey St - Wauzeka

The meal will be at Century Hall

Motels for anyone wishing to drive in the night before.

AmericInn By Wyndham 1700 Elm St. Boscobel 608-375-8000 (17 minutes)

Microtel Inn 1833 S Marquette Rd Prairie du chien 608-326-8500 (22 minutes)

More details to come



HERE ARE CORRECTIONS TO THE THIRD DISTRICT DIRECTORY

- Page 6—POST 151 Email was incorrect Mike George mjgeorge@reagan.com
- Page 6—POST 245 MBS: Emily Cash emily.l.cash@gmail.com 608-577-9650 7780 Martinsville Rd, Cross Plains 53528
REMOVE BILL STAT
- Page 6—UNIT 245 Email was incorrect Carol Yttri cyttri@gmail.com
- Page 6—UNIT 248 Remove Jean Johnson (She passed recently)
- Page 7—POST AND UNIT 313—Black Earth meeting: Basements of Breunig CPA - 1116 Mills St. with entry through the rear door.
- Page 8—POST AND UNIT 348 DeForest is now called—OLSON-GRINDE- O'Donnell Post #348
- Page 8—Post 385—Verona—Stan Hook phone number is: 608-279-9044

And some are wondering why there is an asterick next to the City name. That means I did not receive any updated information from what is printed in the directory from that Post or Unit.

Ask VA (AVA) to replace IRIS next month

Effective Oct. 18, the Department of Veterans Affairs is launching its new Ask VA (AVA) system, which will replace the current Inquiry Routing & Information System (IRIS).

IRIS is a web-based system that allows anyone to submit a question to the appropriate VA office, accessed via the VA.gov homepage, GI Bill help portal, and MyHealthVet tech support.

AVA will provide faster customer support and access to VA services. The option to authenticate on **va.gov** establishes a centralized location for veterans to find all inquiry related information/documentation. This will eliminate the need for veterans to sift through various emails to view inquiry answers or locate any forms.

Inquiries can be submitted through the [VA.gov Ask A Question Page](#).

Ask VA will allow customers to submit questions, concerns, recommendations, and compliments. AVA provides the ability for customers to Interact with all VA branches and receive timely, verified, and accurate responses for VA-related questions.

Why use ASK VA (AVA):

- Your questions, recommendations, and suggestions are quickly routed to the correct VA contacts to provide timely responses
- Using your VA.gov login safeguards your personal information
- Easily track your conversations and inquiries using your VA.gov login
- Frequent users will need a VA.gov login for the best experience

INFORMATION FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

National Commander Dillard has an expectation to engage members on a regular basis. Whether it is through Buddy Checks or contacting members about their membership dues, it is imperative to contact members to show them we care and they are a valued member of The American Legion. He is expecting at least a 90% renewal rate and a 100% CPR reporting.

• **Operation Comeback** was initiated during the closing rounds of the 2021 membership year. It is time now to start planning **Operation Comeback** to begin at the start of membership year—go after the 2021, 2020 and 2019 expires—bring back our members early in the process. Engage them before they become expired is the ideal situation.

The online **Basic Training** course was given a refresh this year. Some videos and outdated information have been replaced. It is still offered to all American Legion Family members for free. About 7,300 members have completed the online course since February 2017. New members are invited to take Basic Training during their first-year engagement communications.

Many departments require completion of the Basic Training course before election to their officer positions. Completion of the course is also a prerequisite for application to National American Legion College. [Basic Training | The American Legion](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL 2021-2022

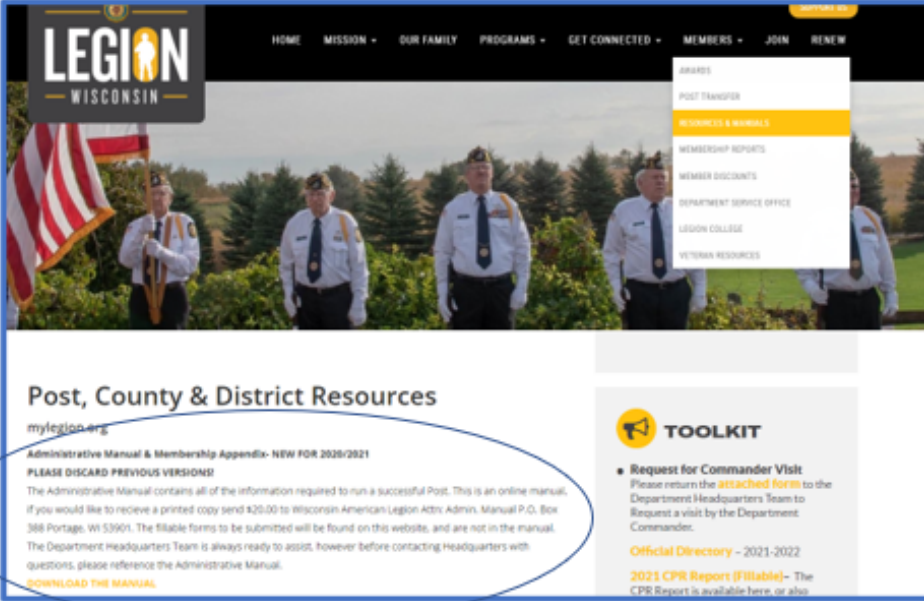
The Administrative Manual is completely on-line this year. All forms can be found on the website, can be saved to your computer and are fillable.

The manual can be found and downloaded on the www.wilegion.org website.

Go to the “MEMBERS” dropdown option and select “RESOURCES & MANUALS”

This manual will help you see what your Post/County/District should be working on each month.

If you wish to receive a printed copy at the cost of \$20.00 each, contact Department Headquarters at 608-745-1090



The image is a screenshot of the Wisconsin American Legion website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following items: HOME, MISSION, OUR FAMILY, PROGRAMS, GET CONNECTED, MEMBERS, JOIN, and RENEW. The 'MEMBERS' dropdown menu is open, showing options: AWARDS, POST TRANSFER, RESOURCES & MANUALS (highlighted in yellow), MEMBERSHIP REPORTS, MEMBER DISCOUNTS, DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICE, LEGION COLLEGE, and VETERAN RESOURCES. Below the navigation bar is a banner image of several Legionnaires in uniform standing in front of a building. The main content area is titled 'Post, County & District Resources' with the URL 'mylegion.org'. A blue oval highlights the text: 'Administrative Manual & Membership Appendix- NEW FOR 2020/2021', 'PLEASE DISCARD PREVIOUS VERSIONS!', 'The Administrative Manual contains all of the information required to run a successful Post. This is an online manual. If you would like to receive a printed copy send \$20.00 to Wisconsin American Legion Attn: Admin. Manual P.O. Box 388 Portage, WI 53901. The fillable forms to be submitted will be found on this website, and are not in the manual. The Department Headquarters Team is always ready to assist, however before contacting Headquarters with questions, please reference the Administrative Manual.', and a 'DOWNLOAD THE MANUAL' link. To the right, there is a 'TOOLKIT' section with a megaphone icon and a 'Request for Commander Visit' link, followed by instructions to return attached forms to the Department Headquarters Team. Below that is a link for the 'Official Directory - 2021-2022' and a link for the '2021 CPR Report (Fillable)'. The CPR Report link includes the text: 'The CPR Report is available here, or also'.

Sign up for Department Headquarters Weekly Updates go to www.wilegion.org select “**GET CONNECTED**” from the dropdown menu select “**Contact Sign-Up**” and fill out the form. Lots of great information is passed on each week to include important information for Post and veterans, event information, Legislative & VA Updates, and more. The updates are sent out weekly via email each Friday. ALL Legion Family members are encouraged to sign up for these updates, you do not have to hold a leadership position to receive them.

MY LEGION.ORG Training at Fall Conference and More

Plan to attend the October 23rd fall conference in Barneveld to learn more about MyLegion.org and share your experiences. We will try to get your questions answered and take notes to share with the Department and National Staff. Plan to share your “best practices” for a successful American Legion Family year.

Department Commander Greg Eirich has been invited to attend and our own Department Vice Commander Keith Lovell will also be there to give us updates.

A prize will be given to the Post Commander that turns in the most memberships the week of the conference. Bring a copy of your week’s transmittal form or deliver the paid cards to the Commander during the conference.

Lunch of Chicken, Ham, Potatoes, Vegetable, Roll and Desert will be \$10.00. Send your reservations to American Legion Post 433, PO Box 36, Barneveld, WI 53507

SPRING CONFERENCE

Save the date of April 30, 2022, for the District Spring Conference. This will be a one-day conference being held in Wauzeka. Remember, 2022 is an election year so plan to attend to vote for our new officers. More information to come in the following months.

Officer Nicholas Bartels Presented Award

During the September 28th District Executive Committee meeting, Officer Nicholas Bartels was presented the 2020 Edward J. Ormsby Law and Order Officer Of The Year Award which he should have received during the 2020 spring conference. (Thanks to COVID the presentation had been delayed.)

Officer Bartels is from the Brodhead Police Department. He was nominated by Post 197, Green County. Officer Bartels has 18 years of sworn law enforcement experience. He started his career in Omro before being hired by the Brodhead Department in 2005. His primary duties are that of a patrol officer and field training officer.

His forethought led to the implementation of a Rescue Task Force which culminated in a large-scale mass casualty incident training exercise at the Brodhead High School. During this exercise Federal, State, and County Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement, Health Officials and School Administrators tested their ability to respond to a major mass casualty incident.

Presenting the award are Commander Ken McCormick, PNC Denise Rohan and Dept. Vice Commander Keith Lovell.



Commander Greg Eirich
Making a Positive Impact 2021-2022
Membership Incentives 2021-22



Department Commander Eirich presents his 2021-22

Membership Incentives. This incentive is a little bit different. This a “Legion Post improvement incentive.” The post must use winnings for post improvements. This could include, but not limited to; rent, community giving, donations to Legion programs, Troop and Family Support, Sponsor a Vet to Camp American Legion, or similar Positive Impact causes.

There will be 3 winners

- 1st place-\$2,000** The post that exceeds the highest percent of goal 30 days before convention.
- 2nd place-\$1000** The Post that exceeds membership goal by the highest actual number of members.
- 3rd place-\$500** Most improved Post (Current year percentage compared to last year percentage).

The post must provide the following:

A CPR filled out and returned to HQ by 6/1/2022.

- Must have at least 3 brand new members (which means either new or last paid year of 2020.)
- A CIP-R (Capitol Improvement Project Request Form) explaining what the money will for for. (This form is for accountability of the money).

Lincoln Pilgrimage

All posts that obtain 100% by December 31, 2021 will be put in a drawing to be the Commander's guest at the 2022 Lincoln Pilgrimage.

The Pilgrimage is *February 11-12, 2022* in Springfield, IL. This will include hotel, breakfast, lunch, tour/pilgrimage and a commemorative jacket.

District Commanders Incentive

The First District Commander that reaches 100% of their membership goal 30 days before convention will be awarded 10 crisp \$100 bills. This will come directly out of Commander Eirich's personal account.

NEW THIS YEAR

Any member signing up 10 new members will receive a "Making a Positive Impact" Commander's challenge coin.

Commander Dillard's membership engagement initiative

The American Legion

SEP 22, 2021

Membership engagement is a priority for American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard. Whether it's current, expired or potential members, it's important to engage with these individuals and show them the value of membership in The American Legion.

Dillard has announced a new membership engagement initiative with members who last paid in 2020 and did not renew their membership in 2021.

Legionnaires are encouraged to reach out to 2020 members and offer them the ability to continue their continuous years of membership – despite not renewing in 2021 – if they renew for the 2022 membership year. For example, if an expired 2020 member had five continuous years prior to letting their membership lapse, and they were to pay for the 2022 membership year, their continuous years would be six years.

If the veteran would like to pay for 2021 as well so it's on their membership record, they can. If they only want to pay for 2022, then the adjustment on the continuous years has to be made at the post by filling out a Member Data Form (MDF) to correct the years and processed at National Headquarters, or the department can correct it within the members record in Personify.

When transmitting dues, if the veteran is only paying for the 2022 membership year than select 2022 – do not select 2021 or payment will come out for that portion of the per capita and it will be deducted as part of the eCheck payment processing.

If the member wants both 2021 and 2022 membership years to be added to their continuous years, then accept payment from them for 2021 and 2022, then the department will process those two years through Personify.

American Legion National Commander's 100% American Legion Family Ribbon

American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard will award his 100 percent American Legion Family Ribbon to any American Legion Family that achieves 100 percent membership by May 31, 2022. For this award, the Legion Family is defined as a post and any combination of an Auxiliary unit, Sons squadron or Legion Riders chapter. Each branch must achieve 100 percent membership to qualify for the award.

The department adjutant will transmit information as posts qualify to:

The American Legion
National Headquarters
Attn: Internal Affairs & Membership
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055



THIRD DISTRICT AUXILIARY

THIRD DISTRICT AUXILIARY IS 100 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR
FIRST SPRING CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN 1921



Happy Fall! I think, the last couple of days certainly has me wondering, not sure about you. I am looking forward to an amazing Auxiliary year. I am excited to be able to meet in person going forward. I am hoping to meet many new members this year. If your Unit or County is having an event or a meeting, I would love to join you. If you would like me to join a meeting or event please let me know about it by contacting me at 651-341-4767, if I am unable to answer please leave me a voice mail and I will get back to you. You can also text me at this number if you prefer. Or you can contact me via email at drottman73@hotmail.com and I will respond in the evening.

Who has attended an ALA in the Know this year? I have and it was a great day of learning. The topics covered are great for any member as they relate to all levels of the organization from Unit up to National. Even as someone who has been an Auxiliary member for over 20 years, I learned something new in Stoughton. If you are able to sign up and go to any of the remaining session I highly recommend. I will go into more detail in my next article.

I want to give a shout out on membership.....as of 9/14/21 Third District is in FIRST place in the Department. Let's keep up the great work. If you have membership questions feel free to reach out to our membership Chairman, Jenni Syftestad or myself. Also, notices have been mailed, so let's hope that helps more membership come in!!

I want to pass along I am always available for questions. I may not be able to answer the phone at all times, as I do work full time, but please leave me a message and I will get back to you. Or if you prefer to reach me electronically, please email me. I will admit right now I will not have all of the answers, and if your question stumps me, I will find the answer and get back to you.

Are you aware that every Unit President will receive a complimentary copy of the Red Book published by Department? But in order for your Unit President to receive this Red Book your Unit needs to have sent in an updated Officer form. I have received a list of some units that have not submitted theirs and I will be reaching out to each of these units to get updated information.

I hope everyone has had a great fall so far. I am looking forward to the leaves changing and the chill to return to the air. I love the cool crisp air of fall.

God Bless

Deb Rottman
District President
651-341-4767
drottman73@hotmail.com

THIRD DISTRICT AUXILIARY

District 3 Military Family Chairman

Karen Runk

November was first declared as Military Family Month in 1996. Since then, November has been a time to acknowledge the tremendous sacrifices our military families make.

Military families rise to the challenges of multiple deployments and frequent moves. The sacrifices and duty involved in service to the nation by military families often goes unnoticed by those who are not in uniform. Their countless moves, school changes, friends and sports teams left behind, job changes, nonstop deployments and months missing their loved one. Families frequently contend with separation from their extended families and make adjustments to new living situations and communities with every relocation.

November provides us all the opportunity to celebrate the sacrifices and contributions that military families have made and continue to make. As we celebrate November Military Appreciation Month, take the time to honor our veterans, their families, and the sacrifices they've made. The ALA and Legion National websites have a wealth of information regarding service to veterans and their families.

The National Military Family Association (NMFA) is an organization originally formed by a group of military spouses to support those military spouses widowed by war, no matter what rank or branch. Now this organization unilaterally assists military families. If your unit is looking for a new way to honor and appreciate military families, learn more about the NMFA by going to this website: <https://www.militaryfamily.org/november-is-military-family-appreciation-month/>