

# Wisconsin American Legion First District

Serving 60,000+ veterans from the shores of Lake Michigan to the idyllic Sugar River

# April 2022

Greetings, American Legion Family!

**<u>BLUF</u>** – Here it is April already. Where has the time gone? Spring is in the air, although it was pretty white when I looked out the window this morning. Good thing snow doesn't hang around long this time of year.

March Madness is in the books. Department Headquarters is in the process of compiling the numbers to see who will win the prize money. I am so proud of how the First District responded to this challenge. We turned in almost 300 memberships, and the District moved up 5 spots from 9<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> in the Department standings and are less than 1.5% out of 3rd. We conducted over 550 Buddy Checks for the month, we signed up 26 new members, and transferred 18 members from 2930. We started the month 384 members behind where we were this time last year, and reduced that deficit to 170! Each of our 5 Counties held a variety of membership rally activities. We have 8 Posts and 1 County (Kenosha) at or over 100%, and 7 Posts at or above 95%. I think we also learned something about membership retention. All of this activity is a direct result of **CONTACTING OUR MEMBERS**. We always knew this, but when we actually put it into practice the results speak for themselves. Let's keep this momentum going into April and get our District to 100%.

We still have work to do. We have 11 Posts that are below 80%. I'm asking the County Commanders to concentrate their efforts on those Posts over the next couple of weeks. We can use the same tactics that we used during March, and hopefully realize the same amount of success. Even though March Madness is over, we can and should still keeping working the lapsed member lists and the 2930 lists to help those Posts, and, indeed, all of our Posts realize their membership goals. We can do this. I know we can. March has shown us what can happen when we make a concerted effort to talk with our members and our fellow non-member veterans and sell them on membership in our great organization. You know what the Legion does for you, tell that story to others, and invite them into the family. They won't regret it.

I am also pleased to see a number of awards submissions. Our awards committee of Allen Morris, Lisa Fauster and Mike Hellquist have talked this up at the County meetings, and it is paying dividends. There is still time to get awards sent in. The deadline for submission to Department is June 1. Hopefully, by District Conference we can select and forward nominees for all the Department awards. Our Post members and community members are out there doing great work and we need to recognize those efforts. The District will provide certificates to the Posts for all of the District winners that can be given to those individuals at a Post meeting or other community event. Let's show our fellow citizens that we appreciate the fine efforts of those who serve us, every day, with professionalism and dignity. All of the necessary criteria and submission forms can be found in the Department Administrative Manual. You can download them from the Department website, or send me an e-mail and I will get them to you.

Speaking of District Conference. Mark your calendars for May 1, 2022 at Post 21 in Kenosha. I encourage all District Posts to send a full delegation. This is an election year, and your opportunity to have a say in who your officers will be for the next two years and what direction you want to see the District take.



Commander Karl Stuvengen orfywi@gmail.com 608-295-5959

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Nathan Bond nmorganbond@gmail.com 262-215-3481 Waukesha, Rock Counties 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Candace Rothering rothering.candace@yahoo.com 262-676-9568 Racine, Walworth Counties 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander Tom Visintainer, Sr. county\_commander@sewivets.org 262-620-5646 Kenosha County Registration information is provided further down in the newsletter. Don't delay, register today, as Post 21 needs a count to ensure they have enough food and amenities for everyone.

Again, thank you for all of your efforts in making March Madness a rousing success. I look forward to seeing everyone at District Conference, and *GO RECRUIT THE NEXT YOU!* 

# Membership Report

In the interest of saving space, I will only publish the totals for the 5 Counties. Your County Commander will have the numbers for each Post. These are the totals as of March 31, 2022.

- 1. Kenosha County (545) (goal) 551 (paid), 101.10%
- 2. Walworth County (753) 702, 93.23%
- 3. Waukesha County (2765) 2406, 87.02%
- 4. Rock County (758) 658, 86.81%
- 5. Racine County (691) 582, 84.23%

First District (5512) 4899, 88.88% (4th place in the Department)

2022 National Targets: 4/13/2022 - 95%; 5/11/2022 - 100%

#### 2022 100% POSTS

Ingalls – Koeppen Post 102, Walworth Ralph Amundson Post 30, Edgerton Kelly – Gardner – Katzman – Stoflet Post 45, Elkhorn Paul Herrick Post 21, Kenosha

Twin Lakes Post 544, Twin Lakes David L. Leet Post 552, Somers Pewaukee Post 71, Pewaukee Edwin L. Jones Post 91, Oconomowoc

#### What's News?

 1<sup>st</sup> District Spring Conference – The 1<sup>st</sup> District Spring Conference will be held on Sunday, May 1, 2022, hosted by Paul Herrick Post 21, 504 58<sup>th</sup> Street, Kenosha, WI 53140. Registration will begin at 8 AM, Church Service at 8:30 AM, Call to Order at 9 AM. District Adjutant Ken Zilisch is currently sending each Post a written invitation, containing each Post's allotted delegate strength.

Each Post is entitled to have as many delegates and alternates as were allotted for the 2021 Department Convention, which was based on total paid membership as of June 15, 2021. Posts are welcome to send as many attendees as they like, however, only delegates will be allowed to vote. All attendees must register with Post 21 prior to the event. Registration is \$20 per attendee, and can be paid by check, sent to the above address, or can be paid on-line <u>here</u>. You may also scan the QR code to the right, on your smart



phone to be taken to the registration site. Please remember to bring a bottle for the bottle raffle, and the names of your deceased members for the Memorial Service. The delegate strength list is also being sent with the newsletter. At-Large Delegates do not count against the delegate strength of a Post. Department Convention delegates will be updated after June 15, 2022.

2. Calling All First District Legionnaires – This is your biennial notice that next month, the 1<sup>st</sup> District will hold elections for District Officers for the 2022 – 2024 Legion year. The District will elect one District Commander, three Vice Commanders, one Finance Officer and two Sergeants-at-Arms. Nominations and elections for all District offices will take place during the morning session. Art. IV, Sec. 3 of the District By-laws reads in part: The District Commander shall call for nominations, beginning with the office of District Commander. Nominating speeches for all officers shall be limited to two minutes and the seconding for all officers shall come from the floor. Any Legionnaire who holds a current (2022) membership in a First District Post is eligible to be elected to a District Office. There is no automatic succession, meaning persons are required to be nominated and elected for all offices. Contact District Commander Stuvengen or District Judge Advocate Ted DeMicchi for more information about the process or the duties and responsibilities of the various elective offices.

- **3. Candidates for District Office –** The following Legionnaires have announced their candidacy for the listed District Office.
  - Nathan Bond, Post 102, Walworth, District Commander
  - Candace Rothering, Post 494, Caledonia, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander
  - Tom Visintainer, Sr., Post 21, Kenosha, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander
  - Carl Bogar, Jr., Post 21 Kenosha, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander
  - Michelle Adams, Post 375, Mukwonago, Finance Officer

As a reminder, any one wishing to run for office should arrange to have a 1<sup>st</sup> District Legionnaire prepared to nominate them for that office. Please be advised, that as the sitting District Commander, I will not nominate nor endorse any candidate for any District office at this election. Due to other commitments by District election officials, all nominations and elections will take place during the morning session of the Conference, to allow those who must leave for the Spring Meetings in Indianapolis to be excused after the elections are complete.

- 4. Badger Boys State District Chair Michelle Adams reports: This year for Badger Boys State, we are considering bus transportation. Please reach out to your respective Posts to find out how many boys would be interested. They must commit to traveling to and from the event via bus travel. Our preliminary quote, given 50 filled seats, would cost \$54 per person, round trip. Please report your findings to me as soon as possible. There are currently two quotes from bus companies in the District to provide this service. The most important factor in arranging this transportation is the number of riders that commit to taking the bus. Please discuss this option with your students and pass that information on to me. The District, Counties and Posts are willing to cover the cost, so that students can participate without undue financial obligations. However, without a full bus, we will not be able to justify the expense. For more information contact Chair Adams at <u>liberty1776george@gmail.com</u> or 414-975-6914.
- 5. Annual Reports The Consolidated Post Report is now available on-line on the Department website. Also available are fillable PDFs of the Children and Youth (C&Y) and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) reports. All three reports are being sent with the newsletter. Reports can be filled out anytime starting now through June 1. The 1<sup>st</sup> District was 100% in CPRs last year, but was short of 100% for the C&Y and VA&R reports. Our goal this year is to be 100% in all three reports. County Commanders will be tracking these reports, and will follow up with Posts that do not turn in all reports. Posts are urged to file all three at the same time. These reports are predominately for the 2021 year, but they can be viewed as a rolling 12-month report. Either way, Posts are urged to file the reports as soon as possible. Things to remember when filling these out:
  - They don't have to be a Post-sanctioned event. If you have Legionnaires that go to the local library every Tuesday afternoon and read to grade school children, you can count those hours.
  - Every dollar counts. If you send out donations to different charities, those count. If you happen to send a \$100 donation every year to the local school's Safety Patrol program for their yearly trip to Washington DC, that can count as Children and Youth.
  - Donations to Camp American Legion also count. Camp American Legion falls under the VA&R category. It also goes on your VA&R report.
  - Lines 81, 121 and 122 are catch-all's. If you have Legionnaires that volunteer their time to mow the grass at the Post or to tend bar at the Post, those are volunteer hours "not captured above". If you happen to have a Legionnaire that donates a new gun every year for your annual hunter's night out raffle, that is "other fundraising not captured above".
  - Don't worry if you can't fill EVERY blank... 99.1% of Posts can't.

- Try to be accurate. No one is going to come back and scrutinized your numbers, but also be honest.
- These need to be returned by June 1st! Posts may become ineligible for assistance in case of disaster (NEF or Blue Cap grants) and they could also become ineligible for awards.
- You are NOT the first person to fill these out. Feel free to ask others for assistance.
- 6. From Wisconsin AL Baseball Commissioner Roger Mathison It's time to think about the 2022 and 2023 seasons of American Legion Baseball!

2022 is going to be an exciting year for The American Legion in Wisconsin, hosting the National Convention in Milwaukee. This will be a chance to highlight our state to the rest of the members of The American Legion Family. For American Legion Baseball, we are looking for a return of a normal baseball season in Wisconsin, and while we have just begun our registration process for this season, we already have 12 new teams that joined us this year.

We will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Wisconsin American Legion Baseball All-Star Game. The All-Star Weekend will begin with a Banquet on August 6<sup>th</sup> at the Brookfield Sheraton and National Commander Paul Dillard (TX) will be a speaker for the event. The All-Star Game itself will be played on Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup> following the Brewers game vs the Reds. We are looking to make this year's celebration the best one yet and we are looking for ideas from you.

PNC Denise Rohan has compiled a listing of all the past participants in the All-Star Game by the locale they represented. We need help from you to spread the word to these All-Stars to join us this year. After 50 years we do not have contact info for the players and we would like to honor them in some way. Please check the list and see who is in your area. On the Department website there is an 'Alumni Contact' tab on the baseball page to supply info on past All-Star players and coaches. You can access the list at <a href="https://bit.ly/allstaralumni">https://bit.ly/allstaralumni</a>.

We are looking at ideas to enhance the celebration this year and if you have ideas, please forward them to us. One thought has been to have a tailgate party prior to the Brewers game that day in the parking lot. We are looking at the cost, but we would like to know if fans from your area would be likely to attend.

As you are aware, we are planning to offer an American Legion Softball program in Wisconsin for the 2023 season. This would be a Department-administered program mirroring that of American Legion Baseball and would be governed by a sub-committee of the Baseball Association. The softball committee would report to the Americanism Committee as part of the Baseball Association report. It would be played under high school rules for those softball players under the age of 19, as is American Legion Baseball, and with the same requirements for background checks and abuse training for coaches and managers to comply with Federal law concerning contact with minors. Program Coordinator Jen Swenson has developed a Softball page on the Department website with more information and a page for contact information for those interested in being a part of the program. Once the sub-committee is in place, we would then be able to move forward with program development with an updated report at Convention. We have had interest from some who wish to become part of the committee, and we are asking for input from you for qualified individuals from your area with high school softball experience and good organizing skills who would be good candidates for committee membership. These committee members do not have to be members of the American Legion or even veterans. Ideally committee membership would be geographically diverse.

We represented The American Legion recently at the high school baseball coach's clinic and annual meeting and the interest for baseball and softball was exciting!

Thank you for your support of The American Legion Baseball Program and we look forward to your support for The American Legion Softball program.

- 7. News from the US Department of Veterans Affairs The following articles were recently published by the US DVA:
  - VA is Here for You During Times of Emotional Distress Veterans may be experiencing a range of challenging emotions related to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Veterans who served in U.S. military conflicts may be feeling emotional distress, reminded of their own deployment experiences. Click the <u>link</u> for a list of available VA and partner resources.
  - VA Recommendations to Realign, Modernize VA Health Care Nationwide On March 14, VA published a report on modernizing and realigning VA health care facilities to improve access and outcomes for Veterans. The recommendations, if implemented, would result in the most significant VA health care system redesign since the World War II era. Read the report <u>here</u>.
  - VA Proposes Adding Rare Respiratory Cancers to the Presumed Service-connected List – VA recently announced its intention of adding nine rare respiratory cancers to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities in relation to exposure to toxic chemicals in the air, water, or soil for Veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations. Learn more here.
  - VA Warns of Phising Attacks If you receive a suspicious email from the Department of Veterans Affairs, DO NOT open the email or click on any attachments or links. VA does not send emails asking for personal information, threatening emails, or emails claiming to take adverse actions on claimants or beneficiaries (jail or lawsuits). If you receive any of these emails or are in doubt about any communications appearing to be from VA, please contact VA directly at 1 (800) 827-1000.
  - **Treating PTSD: Prolonged Exposure** Prolonged Exposure, one of the most effective evidence-based treatments for PTSD, can help people lead fuller lives. <u>Learn</u> more about this treatment and its availability to Veterans coping with PTSD.
  - **Mobility with Movement** Are you looking forward to getting outside, into the garden, onto your bike, or out for a walk? Maybe your mind is ready but your body says, "Hold on a minute." <u>Learn</u> how mobility exercises can help maintain healthy joints and increase or maintain range-of-motion and flexibility.
- 8. Dogs2Dogtags (D2DT) Dogs2DogTags (D2DT) is a Wisconsin-based non-profit which matches trained emotional support service dogs to Veterans experiencing post-combat stress or anxiety. There are no associated costs to the Veteran.

Dogs2Dogtags is committed to reducing the Veteran suicide rate 'one dog at a time.' As you're aware, in the US we average 20+ daily veteran suicides and this number increased during the pandemic and after the troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. Our dogs provide Veterans a purpose and a loving companion dog who'll provide unconditional and emotional support.

D2DT covers all expenses, the Veteran incurs no out-of-pocket expenses. This includes training & costs for the dog, Veteran's travel, lodging and 7-10 days of personal training with their new best friend. We also cover the costs of a kennel, leashes, bowls, dog food for a year, veterinary medical expenses, along with canine monthly medication costs (i.e., flea/tick and heartworm) and immunizations for the life of the dog. We believe that no Veteran should be withheld an emotional support dog due to their financial situation.

For us to be successful in our mission, D2DT needs your assistance in spreading the word to Veterans and their families. We want to ensure that all Veterans are aware that trained emotional support dogs are available and that they also know about maintenance grants from Laika's Fund, if they already have a support dog. This can be accomplished by having us speak to your

membership about D2DT. You could also highlight our mission in your newsletter or on social media. Another idea is to invite us to your events such as brat fries and fun runs where we can set up our information and talk to attendees and they can meet one of our dogs.

If you want to learn more about our mission or would like us to speak to your group, please check out our Facebook page: <u>dogs2dogtags</u>, our website: <u>dogs2dogtags.org</u> or email Director of Veteran Outreach Nancy Schnell Rivera at: <u>nancy@d2dt.org</u>.

Your support will help us get the word out to Veterans and their families in your community, provide trained support dogs to Veterans and ultimately, help reduce the number of Veteran suicides, 'One Dog At A Time!'

9. Honoring Our PACT Act (H.R.3967) – The Honoring our PACT Act is a comprehensive solution to provide access to VA health care and benefits to toxic-exposed veterans. This historic legislation would help millions of veterans by establishing a permanent presumptive framework to address any toxic exposure, foreign or domestic, past, present, and future. It would provide VA health care access for all veterans exposed to hazards, create a concession of exposure for airborne toxins, and establish a list of presumptive conditions associated with burn pits and other exposures. This legislation would help Post-9/11 veterans, K2 veterans, Atomic veterans, and Vietnam veterans, including those who served in Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos. This bill was passed by the U. S. House on 3/3/2022. It has now been sent to the Senate. Contact Senators Johnson and Baldwin and urge them to support and call for action on this bill. Follow the bill here.

### **10. Notes From The American Legion National Headquarters**

- American Legion Stance on Ukraine The American Legion will not support related U.S. combat operations unless the president clearly explains why such operations are in "our vital national interests" and mission guidelines are established to include a clear exit strategy. Read the text of NEC Resolution No. 1 <u>here</u>.
- February 2022 Membership Impact Report Read the February Impact Report and download a copy to present at your Post meeting <u>here</u>.
- Questions on the Use of the American Legion Emblem American Legion National Judge Advocate Mark Seavey spoke about the use of the Legion emblem, and other important legal matters, during the February American Legion Training Tuesday session. Read the highlights <u>here</u>.
- Celebrate American Legion Children & Youth Month The American Legion observes April as Children & Youth Month. Departments, Posts, Units and Squadrons are encouraged to promote a Children & Youth program or conduct an activity in April that informs the community of The American Legion's work on behalf of young people. Read more <u>here</u>.
- **National Poppy Day Resources Available –** National Poppy Day® is May 27, 2022, and American Legion Family members will be in action once again, distributing the symbolic flowers that honor military sacrifices and raise funds to help disabled veterans and support programs of the organizations. See the resources list <u>here</u>.

#### 11. Notes from Wisconsin American Legion Headquarters

- Post Mailings Get HQ updates here: <u>https://wilegion.org/headquarters-updates-news/</u>.
- Victory For Wisconsin Veterans Governor Tony Evers recently signed Act 158 relating to the practice of certain skilled Health services by military medical personnel in granting rulemaking authority. He also signed Act 159 relating to resident tuition at Wisconsin universities, institutions and technical colleges as applied to relocated service members and their children and spouses.

- **Commander Eirich's Testimonial** A testimonial banquet will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2022 beginning at 5 PM at the Sheboygan Yacht Club, 214 Pennsylvania Ave., Sheboygan. Cost is \$40.00 per person. For more information and to RSVP click <u>here</u>.
- **103<sup>rd</sup> Department Convention** Join Commander Eirich and the Legion Family for the 103rd Department Convention July 13-17, 2022 in Green Bay, WI. Remember Department Convention is for ALL Legion Family Members.

The speaker list is growing and currently includes WDVA Secretary Kolar and The Wisconsin Veterans Museum on the Battle of the Bulge and the Leadership Lessons Learned.

Saturday night's Entertainment will be Daddy Ds Productions playing live music for all musical tastes.

For full schedules, registration, housing, sponsorship/vendor information and more click <u>here</u>.

- From the Department Membership Coordinator Chet Faith recently released the following information:
  - Postcards: National Renewal Postcards available at Dept HQ. If you would like some, please email Chet at <u>membership@wilegion.org</u>. They will also be available at Department's Spring Meeting for District Commanders to grab.
  - myLegion.org Warning: Some people are reporting that they are getting a warning about their information not being secure when they go to myLegion.org. That is due to the fact that National updated the link to myLegion.org roughly a year ago. The old link that you may have saved is now expired and is displaying a warning. Please delete that old link and use www.mylegion.org
  - **4**<sup>th</sup> **Generation:** We are currently looking to see if there are any 4<sup>th</sup> generation Legionnaires in Wisconsin. Please poll your Districts, Counties, and Posts.
  - Charters: We have been receiving numerous requests lately for copies of Post Charters. The only Charters we have are those that have been sent to us in the past, which isn't many. National doesn't have them either. We do have most of the applications for Charters which seems to meet the needs of the Posts' requests. Information will be provided soon on how Posts can order new wall Charters.
  - Green Bar Rosters: The question has been raised numerous times about the continuance of Posts receiving their annual Green Bar Roster (the huge green old school printer roster). National will NOT be sending those out this year with your new membership cards. National has been asked by numerous Departments to provide some type of report that the Posts can use. There has been no official announcement as to what the solution is, but it will be passed along as soon as it is published.
- Kimberly Clark's Salute The Wisconsin American Legion has partnered with Kimberly-Clark's Salute, to receive donations of goods to be given to Veterans and Active duty members in need. Volunteers in Milwaukee recently received donations including diapers, wipes, depends and other paper goods. They began the outreach to Veterans and Active duty members by donating diapers and wipes to the WING 128th Refueling Wing in Milwaukee.
- 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 Headquarters 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.

- Sign up for Department Headquarters Weekly Updates Go to the Department website and 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.
- Department Facebook Page PLEASE, we need to get our word out. Go to Facebook, search Wisconsin American Legion and like our page. When we post information, please SHARE it. WHY is this important? If you share it, 10 of your friends share it, and 10 of their friends share it and so on, soon 100s of people have seen it. For example, we had a Celebration of Freedom Post that had 52 shares and it reached 8800 people. Most of our posts average 4-5 shares and only reach about 500 people.
- 12. Training Time-out The principles that we commonly refer to as the Four Pillars can trace their roots directly to our preamble. Over the course of the last year, we examined each clause of the Preamble. Now we will put those clauses to work. The second pillar is: National Security. This comes from the clauses: To maintain law and order, To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses, and To make right the master of might. To those who have sworn with their lives to protect America against enemies near and far, national security is a deeply held value.

#### Homeland Security

Since 9/11 and the devastating hurricanes of 2005, America has become acutely aware of the danger posed by terrorist attacks and catastrophic disasters on U.S. soil. The American Legion works closely with government at all levels to improve disaster readiness in local communities and, at the national level, to ensure that a wellfunded and efficient DHS is prepared for any catastrophic event. DHS was created in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. Since the inception of DHS, the Legion has supported the department's intent, purpose and arrangement: to harmonize myriad agencies, offices, businesses, community groups and others with readiness responsibilities and guick-response capabilities. The Legion is an active contributor to that effort on the local and national levels, and concurs with the DHS mission to coordinate domestic security - including effective customs operations and drug interdiction. To help with that effort, the Legion supports funding for the U.S. Coast Guard's "deep water" initiatives to rebuild its fleet and modernize assets to more effectively fulfill responsibilities in maritime safety, law enforcement, homeland security, environmental protection and national defense.

#### Immigration Enforcement

The Pew Research Center has estimated that 11.2 million illegal immigrants lived in the United States in 2010. DHS's Office of Audits claims that, each year, more than one million aliens attempt to illegally enter this country without proper documentation or enter legally and violate their visas. A broad exchange of intelligence and related action is needed among the Department of Justice and regulatory agencies that govern immigration policy and social services. Federal agencies must use modern systems and technology to aggressively track foreign nationals as a deterrent to terrorist activities. Failure to properly monitor illegal aliens threatens the security and future of America. The American Legion urges Congress to adopt an immigration reform policy which emphasizes border security against those individuals attempting to enter this country illegally, and internal tracking of all resident aliens and illegal immigrants. The Legion opposes legislation granting amnesty and legal residency to illegal immigrants currently in the United States.

The Legion also opposes any change to Title V of the "Immigration and Nationality Act" (8 U.S.C. 1531-1537) that would require revealing the source(s) of secret evidence used in administrative deportation hearings by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The Legion encourages the federal government to provide sufficient resources to enforcement agencies tasked with curtailing illegal immigration, and encourages Congress to mandate continuation of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Student and Exchange Visitor Information System.

# 13. What's happening around the First District

WWII Navy veteran Lillian Jilk, 102, is the oldest and newest member of Kenosha Post 21. Ms. Jilk is pictured with Post Commander Tom Visintainer at her recent birthday celebration



(Photo courtesy of Phil Morris)

Caledonia Post 494 Commander Candace Rothering delivered a birthday cake to member Pete Christofferson, who turned 100 on January 13<sup>th</sup>. His milestone was going to be recognized at the Post birthday banquet by Department Commander Greg Eirich, unfortunately, Mr. Christofferson was unable to attend. Commander Rothering also delivered a challenge coin presented by Commander Eirich



(Photo courtesy of Candace Rothering)

Until next time, *recruit, retain and engage*.

Happy Easter, Everyone!



# Go recruit the next YOU!