



Wisconsin American Legion First District



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

January 2022

BLUF – Happy New Year, Legion Family! The start of a new year always brings me optimism, that the trials and tribulations of the last year are in the rear-view mirror and better days lay ahead.

The challenges of 2021 were many and varied. Although it would seem that we have left behind the wreckage of COVID – 19, recent events point to lingering effects for some and an overall sense that we are not yet out of the woods, but perhaps on the edge. I truly hope and pray that this is the year that we can put this all behind us, and begin to return to what passes for normal in our everyday lives.

We are moving ahead. Most of the Department programs have been restarted and we look forward to getting back to the business of teaching our nation’s youth about the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, sportsmanship, and teamwork. Our area VA hospitals and clinics are beginning to reopen, and are allowing Legionnaires to again volunteer in helping our brother and sister veterans in the area of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

First District Posts will soon begin planning their Memorial Day, Flag Day, and 4th of July observances, many after a two-year hiatus. These events are vitally important to our communities as remembrance, teaching and social gatherings. Legionnaires and veterans in general throughout the First District have, for years, taken the lead in staging and producing these programs as a service to the community, and to help *transmit to posterity the principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy*. In this day and age, where some consider these concepts to be outdated or old-fashioned, we must promote, cherish and celebrate these ideals. We must remind our fellow citizens that this is what made the United States of America the greatest country on earth, and why it continues to be a beacon to the oppressed around the world. In the words of President Ronald Reagan, *“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.”*

Sadly, however, our membership continues to slide. We are off 364 members from this time last year. We simply must find a way to stop this decline. As we are all aware, the programs of which I just spoke about don’t happen in a vacuum. In order to provide vibrant and successful services to our veterans and our communities, we need a strong, engaged membership. Some of our Posts are already feeling the effects of this. It is becoming increasingly difficult for them to conduct any programs. In many cases, they are finding themselves unable to even provide a final salute to a fellow veteran. This only serves to drive home President Reagan’s point about the preservation of freedom. We must challenge ourselves to do better. To paraphrase the ancient Jewish leader, Hillel, the Elder, we must ask ourselves, *“if not me, who? If not now, when?”*

So, as we move ahead into 2022, let us redouble our efforts to expand and strengthen our beloved American Legion. Let us make the commitment to grow our membership, to revitalize our programs, and to increase our presence in our communities. As you have heard me say in the past, the day is coming when we won’t be able to do the things that we do anymore. It is imperative that we have someone trained and ready to assume that mantle of leadership. Let us ensure that what we transmit to posterity are our cardinal principles and not how things used to be. **GO RECRUIT THE NEXT YOU!**



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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 January 6, 2022.

1. Walworth County (753) (goal) 622 (paid), 82.60%
 2. Kenosha County (545) 442, 81.10%
 3. Rock County (758) 609, 80.34%
 4. Racine County (691) 531, 76.85%
 5. Waukesha County (2765) 2089, 75.55%
- First District (5512) 4293, 77.88% (8th place in the Department)

2022 National Targets: 80% - 1/20/2022; 85% - 2/9/2022; 90% - 3/9/2022

2022 100% POSTS

Ingalls – Koeppen Post 102, Walworth
Ralph Amundson Post 30, Edgerton

What's News?

1. **High School Oratorical Contest** – District Chair Lisa Fauster is hard at work promoting this year's contest. Posts should already have conducted the local contests in December, and the County contests should be set for the first two weeks in January. The District contest will be held on January 29, 2022, hosted by Harvey Funk Post 494 in Caledonia. The Department contest will be held on Saturday, February 12, 2022 at Ripon College. This National scholarship program is of tremendous benefit to our country's youth and Posts are urged to contact local schools and solicit contestants. Parochial and home-school students are also eligible to participate. For more information, contact Chair Fauster at lisav1124@hotmail.com or 414-902-0461.
2. **Wreaths Across America** – The distribution took place on Saturday, December 18, 2021 at Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Union Grove. Department Commander Greg Eirich was present, along with many other dignitaries from the American Legion and other Veterans Service Organizations. Approximately 2200 wreaths were placed on veteran graves. Next year's distribution has been scheduled for December 17, 2022 and fund-raising is already under way. Contact District Coordinator Mary-Ellen Crandall at (262) 894-5420 or dabs1951@yahoo.com for more information.
3. **Calling All First District Legionnaires** – This is your bi-annual notice that in five short months it will be time for the Spring Conference, and with it, election of officers. 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 afternoon 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.
4. **Rock County Commander** – It is with regret that I announce the resignation of Rock County Commander Jeff Johnson, effective December 4, 2021. Commander Johnson was forced to resign due to an employment conflict. The Rock County Council Executive Committee has appointed 1st Vice Commander Allen Morris as acting County Commander. The Rock County Council will consider a motion at their January meeting to make this appointment permanent. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Past Commander Johnson for all of his hard work as

Commander, and I wish him well in the future. I would also like to offer my congratulations to Commander Morris and thank him for stepping up to fill this important position. Please update your District Directory. Commander Morris can be reached at (608) 751-3067 or allenjamesmorris@gmail.com.

5. News from the US Department of Veterans Affairs – The following articles were recently published by the US DVA:

- **VA Committed to Being a Place Free of Harassment, Assault for All Veterans** – US DVA Secretary Denis McDonough released the following statement: The Department of Veterans Affairs recognizes that Veterans are a diverse group who served and sacrificed on behalf of this great Nation. We all have a responsibility to ensure every Veteran who receives treatment, benefits, or services at a VA facility is treated with dignity and respect.

VA is committed to ensuring our community is safe, welcoming, and a place that is free of harassment for all Veterans, their caregivers, volunteers, visitors, and employees. We thank you for honoring all those you encounter in any VA facility by treating them with dignity and respect, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, language, physical or mental disability, socioeconomic status, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. VA has a zero-tolerance policy for harassing, disruptive, abusive, or violent behavior. Harassment and sexual assault, including sexual harassment and gender-based harassment, is inappropriate conduct and will not be tolerated. Reports of inappropriate conduct are taken seriously. VA will investigate and take action, if warranted, to hold the person engaging in such conduct accountable for their actions. If the offender is a Veteran, such conduct may result in the Veteran being restricted as to the manner and location at which they can receive treatment.

Experiencing or exposure to harassment can impact us all. When harassment is observed and not reported, it can embolden the harasser to continue the inappropriate conduct and make the experiencer feel unsafe, disrespected, and unwelcome. VA strongly encourages those who witness harassment to support their fellow Veterans by reporting it.

If you have been harassed, sexually harassed, or sexually assaulted or witnessed such behavior at any VA facility contact the VA Police or a VA Management Official. To make a confidential report of sexual assault against any individual or if a non-employee wants to report sexual harassment contact the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) Hotline at 1-800-488-8244.

Veterans can find more information on VA's zero-tolerance harassment policy, reporting procedures, resources, and training opportunities within the VA Anti-Harassment and Anti-Sexual Assault brochure.

- **VA Statement on GPO Printing and Mailing Delay** - The Board of Veterans' Appeals is experiencing delays in notifying Veterans of their hearings and decisions due to significant delays at the Government Printing Office (GPO). Click [here](#) for more information and options.
- **VA Announces Benefits Annual Increase** - As the cost of living goes up, VA ensures your benefit rates do too. As of December 1, all compensation benefits rates increased by 6% to match adjustments made to Social Security benefits. If you receive VA compensation benefits, take a look at your new rates [here](#).
- **Presumptive Period Extends for Veterans** - VA has extended the presumptive period for qualifying chronic disabilities, such as fibromyalgia, in Gulf War Veterans rated 10% or more resulting from undiagnosed illnesses to December 31, 2026. Learn more about the extension and qualifying conditions [here](#).

- **Veterans Receive Free Entrance to National Parks, Public Recreation Space** - Start your family spring break plans today! Veterans receive free access to approximately 2,000 public locations across more than 400 million acres, which host activities to fit any lifestyle. These activities include hiking, fishing, paddling, biking, hunting, stargazing, camping, and much more. Learn more [here](#).
- **Attention Women Veterans** – In an effort to help us serve women Veterans better, we need your help. We want to hear from women who have served in the military. The [survey](#) is designed to help VA gain a basic understanding of why women Veterans may not be using the VA and what VA can do to help change that. This survey is intended for women Veterans who do NOT use their VA benefits and services. The survey is anonymous and takes less than five minutes to complete.
- **VA Year in Review** - This past year was filled with challenges, but a lot of good happened, too, especially at VA. The Department is committed to making 2022 even better. To do that, we're reflecting on what VA accomplished and how it served Veterans in 2021. Read the report [here](#).

6. **Buddy Check Program** – National Commander Paul Dillard's theme of *No Veteran Left Behind* and Department Commander Greg Eirich's theme of *Positive Impact* both lend themselves well to promoting a successful Buddy Check program. Making contact with our members and other veterans that you know, just to check and see how they are doing, lets them know that they are not alone, and that someone cares. Especially during the holiday season, feelings of loneliness and even thoughts of suicide increase dramatically. When you factor in PTSD and other mental health issues suffered by our veteran population, the holidays can be crushing. Hearing a friendly voice, and just knowing that someone cares can often be the difference between a better mental state and a tragic outcome. Please take the time to reach out to our brother and sister veterans during this festive time of the year.
7. **2022 State Park and Forest Admission Stickers and Trail Passes Now Available** - The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds the public that the 2022 state park and forest admission passes are currently on sale. Get outdoors in the new year with access to some of the most scenic areas in Wisconsin, including thousands of miles of trails, dozens of beaches and a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities.

The 2022 stickers and passes for admission to parks, forests, recreation areas and trails are valid from the date of purchase through Dec. 31, 2022. The vehicle admission stickers provide access to more than 60 state parks, forests and recreation areas across Wisconsin. The stickers are required on all motor vehicles visiting state parks and recreation areas. Some state forest and trail parking areas also require the sticker. A state trail pass is required for all people age 16 or older biking, in-line skating, horseback riding, cross-country skiing or off-highway motorcycling on specific state trails. A state trail pass is not required for walking or hiking.

An admission sticker costs \$28 for Wisconsin residents or \$38 for non-residents. If there is more than one vehicle registered to the same household, additional state park and forest stickers are available for \$15.50 for residents and \$20.50 for non-residents. A senior citizen annual sticker for \$13 is available for Wisconsin residents 65 years of age and older. Annual trail passes are \$25 for residents and non-residents. Resident and non-resident annual admission stickers can be purchased online, in-person at individual state parks, by phone by calling a local state park property office directly during office hours (credit cards accepted) or in-person at DNR service centers. Those interested in purchasing a bulk order of annual admission stickers on behalf of themselves or their organization can fill out this questionnaire and DNR staff will assist with the order.

More information about the Wisconsin state park and forest vehicle admission sticker is available [here](#).

8. SCAM ALERT - The Social Security Administration will never threaten, scare, or pressure you to take an immediate action. If you receive a call, text, or email that:

- Threatens to suspend your Social Security number, even if they have part or all of your Social Security number
- Warns of arrest or legal action
- Demands or requests immediate payment
- Requires payment by gift card, prepaid debit card, internet currency, or by mailing cash
- Pressures you for personal information
- Requests secrecy
- Threatens to seize your bank account
- Promises to increase your Social Security benefit
- Tries to gain your trust by providing fake "documentation," false "evidence," or the name of a real government official

...it is a SCAM!

Protect yourself and others from Social Security-related scams

- Try to stay calm. Do not provide anyone with money or personal information when you feel pressured, threatened, or scared.
- Hang up or ignore it. If you receive a suspicious call, text, or email, hang up or do not respond. Government employees will not threaten you, demand immediate payment, or try to gain your trust by sending you pictures or documents.
- Report Social Security-related scams. If you receive a suspicious call, text, or email that mentions Social Security, ignore it and report it to the [SSA Office of the Inspector General\(OIG\)](#). Do not be embarrassed if you shared personal information or suffered a financial loss.
- Get up-to-date information. Follow SSA OIG on [Twitter @TheSSAOIG](#) and [Facebook @SSA Office of the Inspector General](#) for the latest information on Social Security-related scams. Visit the [Federal Trade Commission](#) for information on other government scams. Spread the word. Share your knowledge of Social Security-related scams. Post on social media using the hashtag #SlamtheScam to share your experience and warn others. Visit oig.ssa.gov/scam for more information. Please also share with your friends and family.

9. Notes From The American Legion National Headquarters

- **Monthly Membership Impact Reports** - The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The monthly Membership Impact Report provides a summary of Legion successes in the lives of veterans, families and communities. The Membership Impact Report consolidates many pieces of information into an easy to read, focused report to show members and potential members the real-life impact of The American Legion's work. Access the report at www.legion.org/membership/impact.
- **The Legiontown Website** – This site contains inspirational stories submitted from American Legion Family members on a variety of topics. You can see how other posts are helping their communities or share your own story at www.Legiontown.org.
- **The Publications Website** – This is a wonderful resource to find information on all things American Legion. The page has sections for each national division with their specific publications for download. These are not only good for handouts, but if you're looking for a way to explain some Legion history or a program, you can use the verbiage from these brochures and know they are accurate and approved by the National Headquarters. Visit www.legion.org/publications to find many resources to download.

- **Public Relations Toolkit** – This resource was recently updated and will help you enhance the image of The American Legion through positive communication and messaging. It can also be found in the publications section, specifically via this [link](#).
- **Training Tuesdays** - The last Tuesday of each month, the Internal Affairs and Membership Division has committed to conducting training. These 60-minute sessions are aimed at Post Commanders and Adjutants. Each Training Tuesday session is recorded for later viewing. Video presentations and PowerPoints are available [here](#).

- 10. 2021 WDVA Impact Awardee** - Angela “Ella” Parker, a Shell Lake resident, served in the Army from 2002-2012 and retired achieving the rank of Major. As a skilled surgeon in the Veterinary Corps, Angela served stateside and overseas in Germany with a deployment to Iraq in 2005-2006. While deployed with the 72nd Medical Detachment (Veterinary Service), Angela oversaw all veterinary care and food inspection within the AL Anbar Province, Iraq in support of Marine Expeditionary Force I and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. While serving stateside Angela was awarded the Brigadier General Elia Veterinary Excellence Award.

Angela has served as the County Veterans Service Officer in Burnett County for over a year and prior to that was the Assistant County Veterans Service Officer in Washburn County for four years. Her efforts and contributions to veterans and their families in the community are exceptional. As a retired officer in the military and Operation Enduring Freedom veteran, Angela utilizes her leadership skills and sharp wit to provide outstanding service to local veterans, surviving spouses, and other family members by offering compassionate and knowledgeable guidance regarding VA benefits, as well as other state and local programs.

Angela’s medical background, ensures that she is extremely successful with assisting veterans with service-connected disability claims and appeals with the VA.

While busy serving the community as a CVSO Angela also played a key role in the organizing and fundraising of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Project from 2017-2020. The tomb replica cast was first made in Madison and then was molded into a more durable fiberglass covering to withstand weather, then relocated to the Veterans Memorial Waterfront Park in Spooner along US Highway 63. This monument is visible to thousands of travelers to Northern Wisconsin every year.

During her time as the Burnett CVSO, neighboring Washburn County was unexpectedly without a CVSO in spring of 2021. Angela selflessly dedicated countless hours of her own personal time to assist the Washburn CVSO office with complex claims and appeals submissions and trained remaining staff to ensure that the veterans of Washburn County continued to receive exceptional service until the vacant position was filled.

Thank you, Angela “Ella” Parker, for your hard work, dedication and continued service to veterans of Burnett and Washburn counties and all across the state of Wisconsin.

- 11. Resolution Writing: How to Start** - The American Legion is a resolution-based organization. Any Legionnaire, or group of Legionnaires, can impact the priorities and positions of The American Legion through a resolution – a position-driven initiative written by members and put to a vote. Resolutions can be categorized as:

- A statement of position on veteran issues
- Related to Congressional legislation, matters at the Departments of Veterans Affairs or Defense, or a state legislature or department.
- The ability to create, change or support programs of The American Legion, such as Legion Baseball, Boys Nation or Legion Riders.
- The ability to create, change or support programs of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin, such as Legion Baseball, Badger Boys State or Legion Riders.

- Authorization of change within the organization (e.g., use of funds, create and manage corporate relationships, make changes to the constitution and bylaws).
- Opportunity to recognize an individual or organization.

Resolutions can be directed to issues at both the National and Department organizations. Resolution writing was the topic presented for The American Legion's Training Tuesday session Oct. 26, 2021, held through Microsoft Teams. The presentation is available [here](#).

12. Notes from Wisconsin American Legion Headquarters

- **Post Mailings** – Get HQ updates here: <https://wilegion.org/headquarters-updates-news/>.
- **Membership Cards** – A fillable PDF of the official American Legion membership card is now available from Department Headquarters. Contact Chet at membership@wilegion.org or District Commander Stuvengen at orfywi@gmail.com for a copy. This can be used for new members or to replace a lost or damaged one for a current member. You will still need to fill out the National and Department portions of the card for new members, but this will now allow you to provide a smart-looking, typewritten membership card to those new members.
- **From the Department Membership Coordinator** – Chet Faith recently released the following information:
 - Hold off on using your Post's Online Credits. Checks were cut in the beginning of December, and the checks will include any remaining 2021 membership year money AND any 2022 money you have accrued since July 1st and haven't used yet (that add up to greater than \$10). Any post with less than \$10 of credit will have it rolled over until the next batch of checks in July.
 - What does the "AD" mean after the Post number on the 2930 list? To everyone except National it means absolutely nothing. It helps them to tell the difference between old and new system entries.
 - Renewal Notices from National – There have been recent questions regarding renewal notices being sent in error. National now believes that members may be getting outdated renewal notices because there was a delay in the mailing of the November notices that were based on an October 14th cutoff date. This does add some confusion to the members that have paid since October 14th. Please apologize to them for the inconvenience. This would be a good opportunity to reconnect with some of your Post members that don't make it to meetings and make sure they are doing okay.
 - Please do NOT send in cards for members who have renewed online. This slows down membership processing.
 - CPR/CSR - National is actively working on the Consolidated Post/Squadron Reports for the upcoming year and they should be available soon. Don't wait until the last minute, start collecting the data now so you can submit it as soon as they become available.
 - 100% Legion Family Ribbons will be sent out for the 2021 membership year soon. If your Post/Squadron/Unit all reached 100% then you should be receiving your ribbons.
 - Just a reminder that next year's rosters and membership cards will be based off the data pulled on April 1, 2022. Information updated by that date should reflect on the new roster and cards. Conversely, anything entered after that date will not appear on next year's roster.
- **Changes to Mission Blue Post Assistance Grant Requirements** – In 2021, National announced the creation of the Mission Blue Post Assistance Grant to aid Posts that were in

financial distress due to the COVID shut-downs. Unfortunately, the program was woefully under-utilized, with many Posts unaware that it even existed. National traced this under-utilization to the somewhat stringent qualifications, specifically a provision that Posts name the National organization as an additional insured on Post insurance policies. This requirement has now been eliminated. The following provisions are now in place:

- Any post that does not have insurance that names the national organization as an additional insured and/or has not filed a 2021 Consolidated Post Report but meets the other grant qualifications identified in Resolution No. 36, may receive up to \$1,000.
- Any post that has met the insurance requirement and has a 2021 Consolidated Post Report on file and meets the other grant qualifications identified in Resolution No. 36, may receive up to \$2,000.
- Posts that previously applied for and received a \$1,000 grant, can reapply to receive another \$1,000.

The application can be found [here](#). It has now been revised, and the insurance requirement has been eliminated.

- **Seehafer to be at Mid-winter 2022** - Joining us for the 2022 Midwinter, is Wisconsin's candidate for National Commander 2023-2024, Daniel J. Seehafer. Come to Midwinter and meet Daniel, learn more about him, his campaign and how he is moving The American Legion forward.
- **Department Vice Commander David Latimer** – DVC Latimer is now home and recovering, but needs some encouragement and support. He is unable to attend Midwinter, so let's shower him with cards of well wishes and encouragement. They can be sent to:

David Latimer
W242N6432 Locust St. #1
Sussex, WI 53089

- **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.

13. **Report on Veterans Homelessness** - The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently released its annual report on Homelessness with critical data on veterans experiencing homelessness. Each year, HUD releases a "Point-in-Time" count of unhoused people, including veterans. HUD conducted its annual count in January 2020, but never released its report, a major resource for Congress in making decisions about how to legislate and allocate resources to respond to veteran homelessness.

The 2020 report found a less than one percent increase overall in veteran homelessness since 2019, the first increase in over a decade. Data also revealed that while women veterans comprise less than ten percent of homeless veterans, they are more likely to be caring for dependents. One third of homeless veterans are African American despite representing ten percent of all veterans nationwide. The entire HUD report can be viewed [here](#).

14. **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 first pillar **Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation** is derived from two clauses. They are: **To preserve the memories and incidents of our association in all wars**, and **To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness**. In summary, The American Legion has over a century of service to America’s veterans, including:

- Legionnaires have been at the bedsides of wounded and sick veterans since the end of World War I, when disabled veterans were often institutionalized in asylums. The Legion helped create the Veterans Administration.
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, the original GI Bill, one of the most significant pieces of social legislation in the 20th century.
- Legionnaires for decades have coordinated and promoted job and career fairs for veterans.
- American Legion members today spend time at military bases or reach out to returning servicemembers, re-connecting with a new generation of wartime veterans.

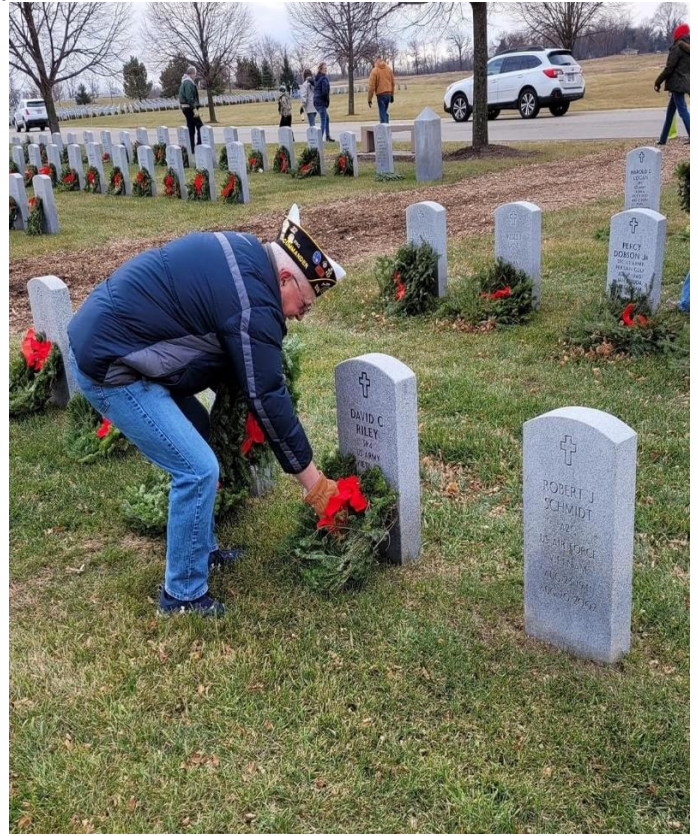
15. **What’s happening around the First District**

District Vice Commander Tom Visintainer is named Kenosha County Home Town Hero



(Photo courtesy of Mike Hellquist)

Department Commander Greg Eirich, District Commander Karl Stuvengen and District Wreaths Across America Coordinator Mary-Ellen Crandall participate in this year's distribution at SWVC Union Grove



(Photos courtesy of DH DuWayne Wieck)

Racine Washington Park High School Vocal Ensemble entertains at Caledonia Post 494 Christmas Banquet



(Photo courtesy of Candace Rothering)

58th Street in Downtown Kenosha renamed for Post 21 namesake Paul Herrick, KIA in the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941



(Photo courtesy of Paul Ciarelli)

Wells – Davis – Young – Neal Post 209 Color Guard leads the Lions Club Annual Lighted Christmas Parade through downtown Orfordville



(Photo courtesy of Molly Phillips)

THE MEMBER WHO NEVER CAME BACK

It amuses me to think that your group spends so much time
looking for new members when I was there all the time.

Do you remember me? I'm the person you asked to join.
I paid my dues and was asked to be a loyal and faithful member.

I'm the person who came to every meeting but nobody paid
any attention to me. I tried to be friendly
but everyone seemed to have their own friends to talk and sit with.

I sat with different people several times but they
did not pay much attention to me.

I hoped somebody would ask me to join one of the
committees or do something but no one did.

Finally, because of illness I missed a meeting. When I came again no
one asked me where I had been.

I guess it did not matter much whether I came or not.
Next time I decided to stay home and watch a good TV show.
When I came back again no one asked where I was the month before.

You might say I'm a good person, fun loving and religious.

You know what else I am?
I'm the member who never came back.

(Graphic courtesy of ALA National President Kathy Daudistel)

Until next time, **recruit, retain and engage.**
I hope the new year brings you much happiness, success and well-being!

Go recruit the next YOU!