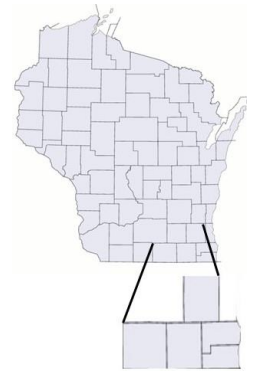




Wisconsin American Legion First District



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

May 2022

Greetings, American Legion Family!

BLUF – (Report to the Spring Conference)

I want to start by saying that I have had an absolute blast being your District Commander. One of the first lines in the District Commander’s Guide is “Welcome to one of the most difficult jobs in The American Legion”. While this is true, this has also been the most enjoyable position I have ever held in The American Legion. I have had the opportunity to work with some of the most knowledgeable and dedicated people I have ever met.

So, in this, my final address to you as your District Commander, I want to recognize and thank several of those people.

First to my officers, Vice Commanders Nate, Candy and Tom. You are remarkable. You always had my back, and were there whenever I needed you.

To my Adjutant, Ken. I know I had to talk you into staying on, and I hope you didn’t regret it. You were always on top of all of the administrative work of the District, of which I often forgot or overlooked.

Finance Officer Tom, your fiduciary talents served our District well. I never had to ask for a finance report, you always made sure that I had all of the information I needed.

Sergeants – at – Arms Carl and Joni. Your service to our District often went unnoticed, as is the case with most Sergeants – at – Arms. You quietly worked behind the scenes to make sure our conferences and caucuses ran smoothly, and were always ready when I needed you.

Historian Kurt, I’m sure you heard Mom’s voice in your ear as much as I did when it came to recording the history of the last two years. I think you did her proud.

Chaplains David and Julia, you both provided rich and meaningful religious counsel to all of our events, and were always ready to impart God’s word to our District.

Service Officer Richard, your monthly reports gave all of our veterans hope and guidance in navigating the intricacies of obtaining and keeping the benefits that we earned. Rest assured that your work strengthened our ability to deliver on the pillar of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

Communications Officer Allen, I knew that I wanted someone young and tech savvy in this position, and you were a perfect fit. Your work with print and social media, helping the Historian, and promoting awards submission were invaluable in telling our story.

Judge Advocate Ted, not only as a District Officer, but as a Past Department Commander, your counsel and mentorship allowed me to flourish in this job, and hopefully will go a long way in preparing me for future opportunities in the Legion.



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Kenosha County

County Commanders Dale, Jerry, Candy, Tom, Jeff and Allen, I told you going in that I was going to expand on your duties and that you needed to get ready to work. You did not disappoint. You kept your Counties moving forward and you were a vital link in the communications chain, and I knew that I could always count on you to help get the word out to our Posts and keep them in the loop.

My fellow County Adjutants, Mike, Bob, Frank and Richard, in doing a job that's actually harder than it looks, you kept your Counties in order, and always made sure that your Commanders had all of the information they needed to do their jobs effectively.

My committee chairs, Jim Foster, Randy Timms, Candy Rothering, Michelle Adams, Rollie Crandall, Joni Sallee, Roger Sass, Nate Bond, Jim Schmidt, Lisa Fauster, Bob Miller, Chris Sherman and Richard Strehlow, your knowledge and enthusiasm in staying on top of all of the programs and activities at the District, Department and National levels provided your fellow veterans with the timely and succinct information they needed to make them more effective Legionnaires and to allow their Post programs and our District programs to stay strong and successful. Additionally, I would be remiss in not remembering Marcia Goodrich and her work with the District Oratorical contest. She set a high bar for that program. May she rest in peace.

And finally, our Past District Commanders, Al Funk, Ted DeMicchi, Don Desch, Les Allen, Jim Schmidt, Bill Luebke, Jim Foster, Phil Cote, Cal Johnson, Tom Strey, Bill Babb and Dave Latimer, your wise counsel, mentorship and yes, at times, correction were priceless to me in my 20 years as a part of the First District and especially so over the last two years. I always knew that I could call on any of you, at any time, and that you'd always be ready to help, to answer my questions, to explain a situation and to suggest a course of action. To any future District Commander, I say, don't ever be afraid to avail yourselves of their experience and wisdom. You won't regret it.

So, I want to thank each and every one of you, from the bottom of my heart. You all played a vital role making the First District one of the most effective teams in the Department of Wisconsin. Words cannot adequately express my gratitude for all of your help and support over the last two years. I'm proud of the work we have done, and you can be proud of it as well. The Department has taken notice of you and the work that you do, and I see a bright future for many of you in the Wisconsin American Legion. Please join me in a round of applause for your 2020 – 2022 1st District Team.

In closing, I also want to commend all of the other County Officers, and the 44 Post Commanders, and their officers for working toward our common goals. The hospitality that you showed me when I visited your Posts and Counties warmed my heart. I enjoyed every visit I made, and wished that I could have made more. Although we began this last two years locked-down and virtually-elected, we rose to the challenge, and as we used to say in the military, "we embraced the suck". Because of this, I believe we have come out of the COVID crisis stronger, more flexible, and more innovative.

As to my goals, while we didn't stop the membership slide, I believe we have stemmed the tide, and maybe, just maybe, we can begin to grow our membership again in the coming years. I took this job with the intention of leaving the District better than I found it, and because of your tireless efforts, I believe I can say that I have done that. I have always tried to provide a little bit of mentorship, with an eye towards cultivating future District Officers, and I hope I have done that. I believe I am leaving our District in good hands, and I see a resplendent future. And finally, rest assured that wherever my fortunes take me from here, I will always be proud to say "I come from the First District". Oh, and **"GO RECRUIT THE NEXT YOU!"**

God bless you, God bless The American Legion, and God bless America. Thank 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 April 28, 2022.

1. Kenosha County (545) (goal) 564 (paid), 103.49%
 2. Walworth County (753) 712, 94.56%
 3. Rock County (758) 681, 89.84%
 4. Waukesha County (2765) 2445, 88.43%
 5. Racine County (691) 594, 85.96%
- First District (5512) 4996, 90.64% (4th place in the Department)

2022 National Target: 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
Semrau – Scott Post 361, Wilmot
Ross Wilcox Post 79, Burlington
Wells – Davis – Young – Neal Post 209, Orfordville
Frank Kresen Post 24, Lake Geneva
Moser – Ortmann Post 130, Sharon

What's News?

1. **1st District Spring Conference** – The 1st District Spring Conference was held on Sunday, May 1, 2022, hosted by Paul Herrick Post 21, Kenosha. There were 26 Posts present and over 60 Legionnaires. Delegates were addressed by Department Commander Greg Eirich, who reviewed Department programs and upcoming events. Candidates for high office for 2022 – 2023 that spoke to the delegation included Department Vice Commander Julie Muhle, candidate for Department Commander, and Department Vice Commander candidates, John Polzin and Harold Rihn. Reports were received on all Legion programs and their status for the coming year. An update on the 2022 Milwaukee National Convention was given by PDC Ted DeMicchi. Headquarters Team member Jen Swenson updated the delegates on the status of American Legion Baseball, and also gave a report on American Legion Softball, set to kick off next year. Election of officers for 2022 – 2024 was held, followed by a delicious meal by Mission Barbeque of Kenosha. The 2023 District Oratorical Contest was awarded to Community Post 375, Mukwonago, and the 2023 Spring Conference was awarded to Flanagan – Dorn Post 294, Hartland. Mark your calendars now for the **2022 Fall Conference, Sunday, October 2, 2022, hosted by Essman – Schroeder Post 20, Waterford.**
2. **Congratulations to your newly elected 2022 – 2024 District Officers** – The following Legionnaires were elected to District office for the coming 2 years:

Commander – Nathan Bond (Post 102)
1st Vice Commander – Candace Rothering (494)
2nd Vice Commander – Tom Visintainer, Sr. (21)
3rd Vice Commander – Carl Bogar, Jr. (21)
Finance Officer – Michelle Adams (375)
Sergeant – at – Arms – Jerry Gibbons (130)
Sergeant – at – Arms – B. Shane (aka B Dot) Morris (20)

Terms of office will commence with the close of the 2022 Department Convention. All other District officers, committee chairs and Vice Commander County assignments will be appointed by Commander-elect Bond in the coming days. Installation of officers and other summer activities are in the planning stages and will be announced when details are complete.

3. **Department Vice Commander David Latimer** – Department Vice Commander David Latimer of Sussex Post 495 addressed the delegates to the Spring Conference. As was previously announced, David has been dealing with serious medical issues over the last several months. In a heart-felt and emotional speech, David thanked all those present, and the many other Legion Family members who remembered him with cards and prayers during this difficult time. He credited his Legion family friends with giving him the drive and courage to fight through his illness and is well on the mend. He is looking forward to returning to full duty with The American Legion and fulfilling his mission as a Department officer. The delegation welcomed David back with a standing ovation and many words of encouragement.

4. **Delegates and Alternates for National Convention** – The following Legionnaires were elected to represent the 1st District at the 103rd National Convention, August 26 – September 1, 2022 in Milwaukee:

Delegates

Karl Stuvengen (209)
Nathan Bond (102)
Candace Rothering (494)
Tom Visintainer, Sr. (21)
Michelle Adams (375)

Alternates

Jerry Gibbons (130)
Susan Knudson (237)
William Babb (237)
Mike Hellquist (21)
Lisa Fauster (375)

5. **Appointments for Department Convention** – The following Legionnaires were appointed to the listed positions to represent the 1st District at the 103rd Department Convention July 13 – 17, 2022 in Green Bay:

Convention Committees

Americanism – Susan Knudson (237)
Children & Youth – Lisa Fauster (375)
Constitutional Amendments – Ted DeMicchi (552)
Finance – Tom Lay (294)
Legislative – Nathan Bond (102)
Membership – William Babb (237)
National Security – Tom Strey (91)
Resolutions – Bob Miller (24)
VA&R – Cliff Stanisch (8)

Ballot Clerks

Ken Zilisch (294)
Lynn Allen (183)
Cliff Stanisch (8)

Assistant Sergeant – at – Arms

Rollie Crandall (71)

6. **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 1st 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.

7. 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 50th Anniversary of our Wisconsin American Legion Baseball All-Star Game. The All-Star Weekend will begin with a Banquet on August 6th 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 7th 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 <https://bit.ly/allstaralumni>.

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.

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

- **VA Seeks Input on Challenges to Veteran Voter Registration** – Help VA best assist Veterans like you in registering to vote! As part of VA's "whole health" approach to care, we believe that it is part of our duty to Veterans and their families to ensure that you are able to exercise the right to vote that you fought and served to protect. Click [here](#) to learn more and take the survey to share your voice.
- **From Medication to Meditation – Whole Health Changes Lives** – VA's Whole Health program is helping Veterans discover how meditation can help manage chronic pain. Whole Health means thinking about and approaching your health in a new way. Read more [here](#).
- **VA Seeks Nominations for Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans** – VA remains committed to making sure all Veterans and their families are able to secure a safe, stable place they can call home. VA cannot do this work alone and is calling for dedicated individuals to be a part of the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans. Learn more [here](#).
- **Free Upgrade to My HealtheVet Premium** – A My HealtheVet Premium account provides Veterans with more tools and information for managing their health care. Along with the features available to basic users, premium accounts allow Veterans to access VA health records and information, communicate with their care team and VA staff, manage appointments, refill VA medications and more. Read more [here](#).

7th Annual National Convening – On May 18 at 10 a.m. ET, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will host the 7th Annual National Convening. Join us for this virtual event as we seek to improve the military caregiver experience in America and address priorities to cultivate a hopeful future for our nation's hidden heroes, Veterans, survivors, and their families. Learn more [here](#).

- **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." [Learn](#) how mobility exercises can help maintain healthy joints and increase or maintain range-of-motion and flexibility.

9. **WDVA Secretary Mary Kolar** – Secretary Kolar spoke at the Women Veteran Owned Business Recognition and Benefit event at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum on April 7. The event was hosted by the Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce to highlight, support, and encourage veteran women owned businesses in our state. Featured speakers also included Yvette Pino, art curator at Wisconsin Veterans Museum, and Kim Galske, veteran and co-founder of Rewired Demographics, an executive coaching company. To learn about future WVCOC events, please visit viveteranschamber.org.
10. **Janesville Area VA Veterans** - The City of Janesville will be performing updates to the water main and roadway in the area of Black Bridge Road starting April 18th through approximately the end of September, which may limit the main entrance to the Janesville VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). The Janesville clinic will remain open during this time and accessible through Black Bridge Road, although an alternate route is recommended using the Alden Street entrance from Norwood Road. Further information on the upcoming work is expected to be posted on the City of Janesville website [here](#) and provided in the local press (including The Janesville Gazette). The improvements generally include replacement of the existing cast iron water main with a new ductile iron water main, pavement reconstruction including intermittent curb and gutter replacement, and public sidewalk repair, where deemed necessary after city inspection.

The work will be completed in two phases:

Phase 1 - Milton Avenue to the west side of Alden Road (east segment). Phase 1 work is expected to begin in mid to late April and be completed by June 30, 2022. During Phase 1 work, Black Bridge Road from Milton Avenue through Alden Road will be closed to through traffic and a signed detour route will be provided using Milton Avenue, E. Memorial Drive, and N. Parker Drive. Access to businesses and private properties within this section of the work zone is expected to be maintained from Woodman Road.

Phase 2 - West side of Alden Road to 350' west of Mayfair Drive (west segment). Phase 2 work is expected to start in early July and be completed by September 16, 2022. This phase may have an impact on access to the Janesville clinic and we will keep you updated as the construction project progresses.

11. **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](#).

12. **Notes From The American Legion National Headquarters**

- **American Legion Child Welfare Foundation** – Did you know the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is a separate 501(c)(3) organization from the Legion itself? Learn more [here](#).
- **March 2022 Membership Impact Report** – Read the March Impact Report and download a copy to present at your Post meeting [here](#).
- **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 [here](#).

- **National High School Oratorical Contest** – High school junior Emma Noble of Birmingham, Ala., won The American Legion’s 83rd National Oratorical Contest, “A U.S. Constitutional Speech Contest,” and a \$25,000 scholarship April 24 in Indianapolis at the Wyndham Indianapolis West hotel. To read more about Emma and hear her speech click [here](#).
- **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 [here](#).

13. Notes from Wisconsin American Legion Headquarters

- **Post Mailings** – Get HQ updates here: <https://wilegion.org/headquarters-updates-news/>.
- **Department Convention Blood Drive** – There will be a Blood Drive on the Friday of Convention. There are many factors that go in to how often you can give blood, but the average is every 56 days, so in order to give blood at convention, do not donate after May 20, 2022. There is a critical blood shortage so book your appointment [here](#).
- **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 [here](#).
- **103rd 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 [here](#).

- **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 membership@wilegion.org. They will also be available at Department’s Spring Meeting for District Commanders to grab.
 - **Post/County/District Officer Reports:** All posts, counties, and districts are required to send/email an Officer Reporting Form to Department HQ every year. If there are no changes, just write “NO CHANGES” across it and send it in.
 - **Post Excellence Awards:** Now that you’re finishing up and sending in your reports, make sure you are submitting your post for the Post Excellence Award (application is located [here](#)). For more information see the 2021-2022 Administration and membership Manual [here](#).
 - **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.
 - **Junior Shooting Sports** – Congratulations to this year’s Junior Shooting Sports Top Winners: The Senior Winner receiving a \$1000 scholarship is Eli Muckler of Gotham, WI. The Team Winner this year is Plymouth American Legion Air Rifle Club.
 - **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.
- 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 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.

Foreign Relations

As the leader of the free world, the United States has great and multiple responsibilities. The American Legion encourages increased federal funding for foreign relations and international affairs, and for the Department of State’s continuing efforts to seek peaceful and diplomatic solutions to world conflicts. More funding should also be given to the Department of State’s Civilian Response Corps initiative for deployment before, during or after armed conflict. The Legion strongly supports the State Department and the functions it performs for American citizens overseas; it is the country’s first line of defense in combating the myriad security threats that face America from outside its borders.

Therefore, the Legion vigorously supports increased funding for the department, so it can maintain a credible initial deterrent to international threats to the United States and effectively promote

American interests abroad. The Legion also urges the President, Congress and the Department of State to significantly increase the number of foreign service officers in its ranks and to implement a veterans preference policy to enhance America's diplomatic missions by recruiting more qualified and experienced veterans. In addition, the Legion recommends enhanced funding for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) within the Department of State, and recommends such funding be targeted for nations that may become sources of international terrorism.

Full Accounting of American POW/MIAs

A sacred value of The American Legion is the full accounting and repatriation of fallen U.S. servicemembers. The Legion supports Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command activities to locate and repatriate all recoverable remains of U.S. military personnel who have died or are missing in foreign battle zones.

15. What's happening around the First District

2022 POW/MIA Shirt Order Form

WWI	2,913	WWII	72,341	Vietnam War	1,584
Korean War	7,544	Cold War	126	Iraq/Libya	6
TOTAL: 84,514 POW/MIA					

#20,00

(Graphic courtesy of Mark Gajewski)

Scenes from the First District Spring Conference
(Photos courtesy of Debi Stuvengen)

District Commander
Karl Stuvengen



Department Commander
Greg Eirich



Department Vice Commander
David Latimer



Commander Greg and
DVC Julie Muhle



Walworth County Commander
Jerry Gibbons



SAL Detachment Commander
David Fuller



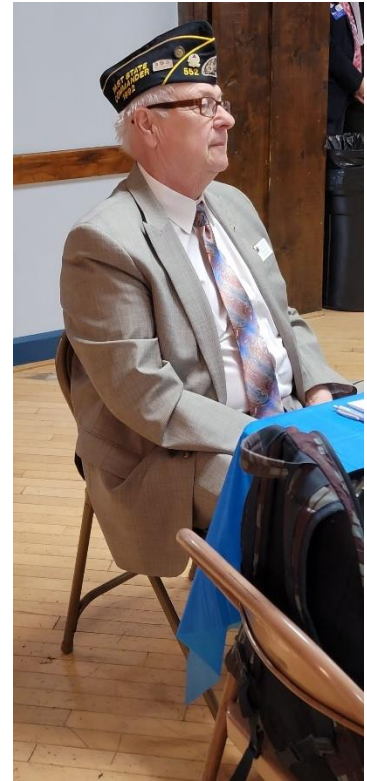
Post 375 Delegate
Michelle Adams



Memorial Service



Past Department Commander
Ted DeMicchi



This will be my final newsletter as your District Commander. As I pass the torch to Commander-elect Nate Bond, he will be taking over District communications. I hope you have enjoyed these monthly publications and I hope you found them useful and of benefit to your Posts, Counties and members. This really was a labor of love, and I'm glad to have had the opportunity to pass along the information that I came across each month. Thank you to my wife Debi for her countless hours of proofreading each month.



Until we meet again, *recruit, retain and engage.*
Go recruit the next YOU!