



“Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage”

Commanders Communication—December 2020

Mid Winter Conference: Mid Winter is scheduled for January 15-17, 2021, at the Ho Chunk Conference Center in Baraboo. Information and registration is available on the Wisconsin American Legion website, www.wilegion.org. Our SAL committee meetings will be on Friday from 2:00-5:00 PM. On Saturday, there will be some information and training from 1:00-3:00 PM, with our Detachment Executive Committee (DEC) meeting at 3:00 PM. Have you made your reservations yet? If not, there is still time! Be sure your squadron is represented! The Legion has many great sessions scheduled and there will be a lot to learn. Interested in learning about how to write your history, or how to handle a virtual meeting? Mid-Winter is the place learn about it!

The SAL will be holding a basket raffle at Mid-Winter with all proceeds donated to the Commander’s Special Project-Homeless Veterans! If you would like to donate a basket, please contact me. Baskets need to be at our table in the lobby on Friday. Your donations are appreciated!

Membership: Detachment is currently at 57.88% in total membership, with renewals at 51%. Thank you to all the squads that are working hard on their membership this year. Congratulations to the 19 Squadrons that are at or over goal.

District 1: #48 Beloit 100%, #183 Genoa City 100%, #294 Hartland 101.59%

District 2: #15 Juneau 103.57%, #36 West Bend 104%, #189 Watertown 100%, #305 Johnson Creek 105.56%

District 3: #245 Cross Plains 102.52%, #437 Mazomanie 109.38%

District 4: 192 Franklin 100%

District 5: #406 Milwaukee 100%

District 6: #43 Ripon 136.36%, #454 Mt Calvary 163.19%

District 9: #258 Little Chute 103.45%

District 10: #98 Cumberland 320.00%, #158 Maiden Rock 100%, #168 Glenwood City 100%, #326 Boyd 100%

District 12: St. Croix Falls 100%.

Now that was the good news, but there is also some not so good news. We still have 31 squadrons that still haven’t sent in any memberships. I know this year has presented us with many unusual challenges, but there really is no good excuse for not sending in memberships. Guys, it’s time to get going! Whether you are having meetings or not, dues need to get paid and submitted to Headquarters.

Please remember that our Constitution states: *ARTICLE V – ARREARS IN DUES Section 1. A member, whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January first, shall be classed as delinquent.* If you are delinquent, you are no longer a member in good standing. You lose your SAL Benefits, and cannot hold an office or vote at a meeting. Don’t let this happen to your members. Contact them, collect their dues, and get them submitted!

SAL Recruiter Awards: The 2021 National Individual Recruitment Award and the 2021 Blue Brigade Award submission forms have been posted to the Sons of The American Legion national website. The National Membership Committee offers the Individual Recruitment Award for those members recruiting five new members into the Sons of The American Legion within a membership year. This pin is suitable to wear upon your cover or lapel. A new member is defined as any eligible Son joining for the 2021 membership year who was not a member of the Sons of The American Legion during the 2020

membership year. Transfers or renewals do not count as new members. The submission form for the Individual Recruitment Award is available by going to www.legion.org/sons and clicking on the link to the form. The Blue Brigade Recruiter Award recognizes SAL members who enroll 30 or more new members in a membership year; reactivated members do not count. The submission form for the Blue Brigade Recruiter Award is available by going to www.legion.org/sons and clicking on the link to the form.

Awards: On September 21, 2020, our National Organization announced the recipients of the 2019-2020 awards. In a normal year, these awards would have been presented at the National Convention. I am very honored to tell you that thanks to the efforts of our members all over the state, we earned the coveted Triple Nickle Award. Criteria for the award is 5 new squadrons, 85+% renewals, and 105% in total membership. This is the second consecutive time Wisconsin has earned this award and the third time overall.

Since we also did not have our Detachment Convention, those awards were announced at our DEC meeting in October. In addition to the numerous citations that were awarded in various categories and already distributed, the following plaques were also presented this year:

Mary Ann Nelson (M.A.N.) Plaque, for the best Community Service Program

Morris Snuggerud #284, Holman, District 7

Raymond Faust Plaque, for Best Blood Program

Pitterle-Beaudoin #189, Watertown, District 2

Robert Wilcox Plaque, for Best Americanism Program

Veterans Memorial #63, Clintonville, District 8

Child Welfare Foundation Plaque, for Highest Amount Per Capita to the CWF

Ladewig-Zinkgraf #243, Plymouth, District 2

Lillian Priest Plaque, for the Best Children & Youth Program

Lesselyong-Sadowska-Kesler-Martin-Altman #54, Marshfield, District 8

Jack Key Plaque, for the First Squadron to reach 110%

Mickelsons-Martin #313, Black Earth, District 3, August 22, 2019

Armin Tews Plaque, for the Greatest % Increase by June 1

West Side Memorial #151, Madison, District 3

National Emergency Fund Plaque, for the Highest Amount Per Capita to the NEF

Wiley Davis #108, Clear Lake, District 12

Thomas A Know Plaque, for the Best Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Program

Delafield #196, District 1

Don Priest Plaque, for Best Overall Program

Ladewig-Zinkgraf #243, Plymouth, District 2

Commander's Project Plaque, for Highest Amount Per Capita to the Commander's Project

Flanagan-Dorn #294, Hartland, District 2

National News: The National Sons of The American Legion, like all of us, has had to adjust to what is going on in the world. Earlier this fall the first ever virtual NEC meeting was held. SAL National Commander Clint Bolt noted in his opening remarks that not only was the meeting the first virtual meeting of the SAL NEC, but that it also was the first SAL NEC meeting to emanate from the NEC room at American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis. Commander Bolt, SAL National Adjutant Anthony Wright, and SAL National Judge Advocate Joseph Paviglianti were in Indianapolis for the meeting, while NECmen joined online. Four resolutions were passed during the meeting. Several

members from Wisconsin attended the meeting, with PNC David Faust actually getting camera time!
FYI: We also held our first-ever DEC meeting on a Zoom! Different, yet practical 😊

SAL Preamble Pocket Cards: Emblem Sales (www.emblem.legion.org) has laminated pocket cards with our Preamble (new “all wars” wording) available for \$1 ea., Item # 555.602. These cards are a handy way to recite the preamble at SAL meetings. Card is 2" x 3.5" will fit easily in your wallet right next to your membership card. Text is split front and back, allowing for a larger font and easy readability.

www.mysal.org: The American Legion National Headquarters has designed a secure internet site that allows officers access to SAL membership records. This site will assist with day-to-day membership duties and allow better communication with members. This Squadron Support Program allows you to view and edit membership data on file at National Headquarters. This information is considered confidential and access should be closely monitored. An Authorization Form must be completed and returned. If you are not the person who would be using the website, please share this information with the person in your squad that should have the information.

Wisconsin American Legion College: The Wisconsin American Legion College is now offering its Basic and Intermediate Courses virtually on the ZOOM Meeting platform. The courses will run for 3-hour sessions on two consecutive days – Saturday-Sunday morning classes from 9:00AM to Noon each day, and weekday evening courses from 6:00PM-9:00PM each day.

Basic Course

December 5-6 (Saturday- Sunday) 9:00 AM-Noon
January 19-20 (Tuesday-Wednesday) 6-9:00 PM
January 30-31 (Saturday- Sunday) 9:00 AM-Noon

Intermediate Course

December 15-16 (Tuesday-Wednesday) 6-9:00 PM
December 19-20 (Saturday- Sunday) 9:00 AM-Noon
February 9-10 (Tuesday-Wednesday) 6-9:00 PM
February 20-21 (Saturday- Sunday) 9:00 AM-Noon

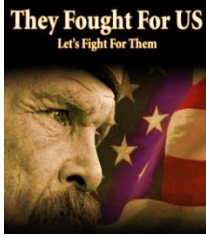
Registration can be done by going to www.wilegion.org, clicking on the “Members” tab, and going to Legion College. If you have any questions you can contact WALC Dean of Education Bob Shappell at wilegioncollege@gmail.com, or call him 414-899-4067. Several SAL members are graduates of WALC. This is a great opportunity to increase your knowledge of The Legion and help prepare you for future leadership roles within the SAL.

News from The American Legion Auxiliary: Wisconsin Department President Joanie Dickerson was selected as the 2020 Woman Veteran of the Year by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. When you see her, please congratulate her on this outstanding honor.

Donation Form: All donations to any of our projects should be sent to SAL Finance Chairman Tom Petrie, 808 E Cady St, Watertown, WI 53094-3910 with the donation form that can be found on the Wisconsin SAL website, www.wisal.org on the Resources tab. Please make your check payable to SAL Detachment of WI.

Operation A.L.F.: Please remember to support this outstanding program with your generous donations. We have not idea at this time when we will be able to attend deployment ceremonies, but we need to be ready when that day comes.

Commander's Special Project-Homeless Veterans: It's cold outside so we turn up the heat. We pull out our warm sweaters, coats, hats, and gloves and rush to put them on before going outside. These are things we just do automatically. But what about our veterans who find themselves homeless? What do they do? Without resources or funds, what can they do? We can quote statistics, but the bottom line is no one who fought for our freedom should ever have to sleep on the street. We need every squadron to participate in this project. Every donation helps! Please send your generous donations to: SAL-WI c/o Tom Petrie, 808 E Cady St, Watertown, WI 53094.



The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation: The Sons of The American Legion is committed to supporting The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. In just a few short years nationally we have raised well over \$6,000,000 for the *Betterment of Children Everywhere*. The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) is an on-going project of the SAL. Nationally, the Sons of The American Legion is the single largest contributor to CWF.

Though created by the Legion, the Child Welfare Foundation, Inc. is a separate 501(c)3 corporation. The Child Welfare Foundation is a nonprofit that has two primary purposes: to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual welfare of children and youth and establish more effective uses of knowledge possessed by well-established organizations. To attain these goals, CWF raises donations and awards grants to organizations that help children. The CWF is governed by its board of directors and a national chairman. All administrative costs of the Child Welfare Foundation are borne by The American Legion so 100 percent of all money raised for the foundation is used exclusively for grants. Please donate generously to this program. Goal is \$1 per member.

Visiting Our Members: Right now, my calendar is wide open! I'd like to see that change. Although this year is very different in many ways, I would still like to attend as many events as time allows. Please feel free to email me the details of your event at wisalcmdrbob@att.net. There is also a "Request a Visit" form on our website that you can use. Go to: www.wisal.org/requestvisit

This year is finally coming to an end, and I would guess not soon enough for most of us! It has been a year of unusual challenges that none of us could have ever imagined would happen in our lifetime. In spite of all the craziness, many of our members still found ways to help our veterans and communities. I want to say a special thank you this year for all that you have done. You do make a difference in the lives of so many people.

On behalf of the Detachment, I would like to wish each of you the joys of the Holiday Season! As you celebrate this year, I hope you especially enjoy the time you spend with your loved ones. While we might be missing some of our holiday family get togethers this year, our military serving around the world have missed more than one family get together as they fight for our freedom. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers this Holiday season. From my family to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a much better year in 2021.



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Happy Hanukkah

