



THE LEGION VOICE



840 E NORTH WATER STREET • NEW LONDON WI 54961

JANUARY 1, 2023

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS . . .

Larry Propson, Steve Frank, Randy Vruwink and Norb Klatt

COMMANDER'S CORNER . . . RON GAGNOW



Hello Post and Auxiliary members. As you read this newsletter, I hope you had a jolly Christmas and I wish you a healthy New Year. We just finished our first joint holiday dinner and I had a great time. I hope those who attended also enjoyed themselves. Next year's party, with an earlier start, will be even better. Ted Schubert (Bud Stern's grandson) won the \$300.

Now it is time for the annual birthday party. It is number 104. Enclosed are four sweepstakes tickets. Two tickets will cover the cost of one meal. You can mail your money to the Post or bring it March 4th to the dinner. I definitely need a head count for Crystal Falls no later than Feb 24th. Email, call, or text me. If we sell all the tickets, we can have a nice dinner and give a nice check to Old Glory Honor Flight.

We have lost a few members but also have gained some. If you see a new face at our meetings, introduce yourself and welcome them.

Hope to see you at our next meeting Jan 12th 6:30 PM

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS . . . LYNNE HERMINATH



New Year's greetings to our ALA members and friends.

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday.

Look back on all you accomplished for our Veterans and Community and look forward to the many opportunities you will have in 2023 with our Legion Family to support our military heroes and those in need. Not just work, but fun also, as Unit members meet on the January 16 ALA Day of Service for a bit of camaraderie, lunchtime goodies, and work on various projects in the company of your Auxiliary sisters. Plan to attend the February 4 Post Chili Cookoff to see who wins the coveted trophy. We have a wonderful group of women who welcome new members. Join for the fun and the satisfaction of making a difference in people's lives. We look forward to seeing you soon.

RANDOM FACTS ABOUT POPPIES . . .

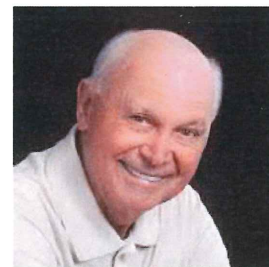
Remembrance poppies were designed to be made with one hand. In 1922, Major George Howson set up the Poppy Factory to employ disabled ex-servicemen. Assembling the poppy required only one hand, allowing veterans who had lost an arm to work on the production line. This factory still employs disabled Veterans, and they make approximately 36 million poppies each year.

IN MEMORIAM



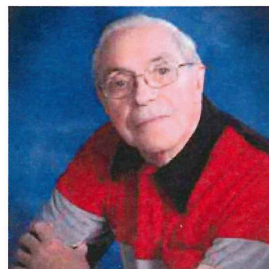
Peter Bellettiere

11/13/1939 - 10/05/2022



John "Chub" Paters

08/29/1932 - 11/18/2022



Robert "Bob" Polaske

11/16/1928 - 12/24/2022



Jean A. Massonet

07/08/1947 - 10/18/2022



8TH DISTRICT FALL CONFERENCE . . .

Several Post and Auxiliary Members attended the conference in Wausau. We broke up into our 2 groups. The Patriot Riders were there to present a talk about Wreaths Across America as well as the Sons of the American Legion who spoke about the A.L.F. dog program.

The Auxiliary received an award for VA&R Service which was presented to Past President Marla Knuettel and Current President Lynne Herminath. We all enjoyed a lovely dinner and convened around 3pm.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST . . .

The 2022 pancake breakfast was a hit with everyone who attended. Pancakes, potato pancakes, sausages and applesauce were served along with hot and cold beverages. Even the NL "Boys in Blue" enjoyed a take-away meal while on duty. The Auxiliary was a great help as always, keeping everyone supplied with beverages, applesauce and syrup. While not as large as past years' breakfasts, attendance is picking back up as the Post-Pandemic world gets back on its feet. Next year we hope to at least double this year's profit of \$639.00.



VETERANS DAY 2022 . . .



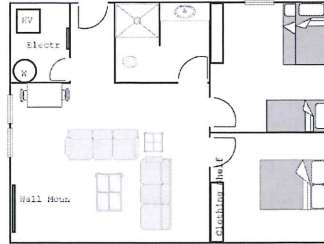
The 2022 Veterans Day program was again held at the New London Middle School on November 11th at 9:00 a.m. The colors were each represented by a member of each branch. VFW Commander Tim Roberts gave the opening speech and included a nice video of the history of Veterans Day. The Middle School Band graced us with some very nice patriotic renditions of all the branches theme songs, the Star Spangled Banner and other selections. We were presented with a beautiful speech from Jackie McQuaid, who touched on her personal experiences during her service in the Army. The program was followed by a luncheon held at the American Legion Hall. We served chicken dinners to 50+ Veterans and family members as well as had enough to take to some of our comrades that were unable to attend the services.

50/50 DRAWING WINNERS . . .

Congratulations goes out to Ken Stuczynski and Ron Gagnow twice for winning our monthly 50/50 raffles.

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE . . .

We are happy to announce that **\$30,000** has been raised thus far for the building of the new Cabin 8 at Camp American Legion. The Engineering Drawings are below. The Fremont Legion Post will be having pizza fundraisers on the 4th Monday of each month and all proceeds will go towards Cabin 8. We will also be donating 100% of the Iola Car Show profits to the Cabin 8 rebuild fund. Keep those efforts coming and we will reach our goal in no time.



The Post and Auxiliary took part in helping out the Salvation Army by bell-ringing at Festival Foods on December 6th and 13th. The group took turns ringing in the holiday season as well as raising money for those in times of need.

ALL VETERAN CHRISTMAS PARTY . . .



The year 2022 brought many changes to the Legion and Auxiliary. The biggest and most fun of all was the joining of the Veterans' Groups and Auxiliaries for the Holiday party that was held on December 4th at Crystal Falls. It was great fun for all who attended. There was bingo and board games and chats – Oh My! After the social hours, everyone partook in a lovely meal and raffles. Many lovely prizes were donated by members and businesses. The party lasted until the wee hours of the afternoon (6 pm) when everyone said their goodbyes and retired to their own homes. Looking forward to next year!



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA . . .

Held on December 17th at the King Veterans' Home Cemetery. It was an awe inspiring and humbling event. There was a nice turn out. Once everyone had arrived and had our fill of coffee, cookies and exchanges of stories; it was off to set the wreaths. Each person took the time to place a wreath at the grave sight, state the Veteran's name and pause for a moment of silence. After all the wreaths were laid at the graves, it was quite the sight to see. Thinking that not one grave stone was without a wreath is such a humbling thought. Next year, we are hoping to expand the program to some of the smaller cemeteries in our area in order to honor those Veterans as well. Hope you can join us.





1st Annual Veterans Chili Cook-Off will be held in the Post on Feb 4th. Members of the VFW, AMVETS, NL Clippers, AL Auxiliary and the American Legion will present 2 Nescos of their best chili recipe. The winner will receive bragging rights for the year as well as a traveling Chili Champion Trophy. It will be held with the winning group until next year. The public is encouraged to attend and join in the voting. Each person in attendance will receive a sample of each batch of chili and then a bowl of their favorite. A \$10 cover charge per person will cover the tasting cups and a bowl of chili. Additional bowls can be purchased for \$5. At 7 pm any leftover chili will be sold for \$10/quart. A \$100 donation will be given to each participating group for the cost of their chili. So grab your spoons and let's get ready to rumble!

BIRTHDAY PARTY . . .

This year the American Legion is celebrating its' 104th birthday with a party at Crystal Falls on March 4th. Enclosed in this newsletter are 4 tickets to the event. The cost of 2 tickets will cover one meal at the party. You can either mail your money for the tickets directly to the Post or bring your money with you to the dinner. We definitely, however, need a head count for those who plan to attend no later than February 24th. If we can sell all the tickets this year we will enjoy a nice dinner as well as give a generous donation to the Old Glory Honor Flight. Any questions can be directed to Ron Gagnow.

ALL UPCOMING HAPPENINGS . . .

Jan 10th	7am-10am	Coffee Clutch in the Post
Jan 12th	6:30pm	AL/ALA Monthly Meeting in the Post
Jan 12th-15th		AL Mid-Winter Conference at the Green Bay Radisson
Jan 14th		ALA Mid-Winter Conference at the Green Bay Radisson
Jan 16th	10am	ALA MLK Day of Service in the Post
Feb 4th	4pm-7pm	1st Annual Chili Cook-Off in the Post
Feb 9th	5:30pm	AL/ALA POTLUCK Monthly Meeting in the Post
Feb 14th	7am-10am	Coffee Clutch in the Post
Feb 17th	11am-5pm	ALA Blood Drive in the Post
Mar 4th	2pm-7pm	104th Annual Birthday Party at Crystal Falls
Mar 9th	6:30pm	AL/ALA Monthly Meeting in the Post
Mar 14th	7am-10am	Coffee Clutch in the Post
Mar 18th	1pm	St Patrick's Day Parade in Downtown NL

Did you hear that
Bill joined the Navy
out of spite?

He was a *Petty Officer*.

How do you play
Air Force Bingo?

A-10 B-52 F-16

Did you hear about the
big accident on base?

A tank ran over a bag
of popcorn and
2 *Kernels* were killed.

SICK CALL . . .

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Dave Wroblewski, Charlie Rogers, Jim Jaeger, Edith Steffanus, Betty Dowd and Lynne Herminath as they deal with their health and hardships. As well as anyone else in need.

CONTACTS . . . IF AT ANYTIME YOU NEED ANY ASSISTANCE OR JUST A VISIT, PLEASE CALL ANY OFFICER:

AL Commander:	Ron Gagnow	920-878-2248	rongagnow@gmail.com
AL 1st Vice/Membership:	Terry Lathrop	920-878-2025	blueberry0463@aol.com
AL Adjutant:	Tim Roberts	920-427-3334	alwipost263@gmail.com
AL Finance Officer:	Don Schmoll	920-572-0158	moll.schmoll@gmail.com
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ALA 1st Vice:	Marla Knuettel	920-538-0225	mk54961@yahoo.com
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