

2015-2016 COUNCIL MEMBERS

American Ex-Prisoners of War  
Don Heiliger

American GI Forum  
Fernando Rodriguez

American Legion  
Paul Fisk

American Red Cross  
Mike Soehner

**AMVETS**  
David Schmidt

Army Navy Union  
Paul Fine

Blinded Veterans Association  
Gary Traynor

Catholic War Veterans  
Unrepresented

County Veterans Service Officers  
Assoc.  
Joe Aulik

Disabled American Veterans  
Albert Labelle

Jewish War Veterans  
Peter Gilbert

Marine Corps League  
Phillip Landgraf

Military Officers Assoc. of America  
Roger Fetterly

Military Order of the Purple Heart  
William Lobeck

National Assoc. for Black Veterans  
William Sims

Navy Club  
Russ Alsteen

Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Dale Nelson

Polish Legion of American Veterans  
John Recklies

The Retired Enlisted Association  
Lenny Shier

United Women Veterans  
Elizabeth Benn

U.S. Submarine Veterans of WWII  
Russell Collins

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Mike "Gunner" Furgal

Vietnam Veterans Against the War  
Rich Peters

Vietnam Veterans of America  
*Steve House*

WI Assoc. of Concerned Veterans Org.  
William May

Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans  
William Hustad

**2013-2015 Biennial Report to the Wisconsin Legislature**  
**Membership and Activities of the Council on Veterans**

**Programs**

**July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015**

September 30, 2015

The Wisconsin Council on Veterans Programs is composed of twenty-six veterans' organizations.

Council officers from 09/13 through 08/14 were: Chairman Roger Fetterly, MOAA; Vice Chair Al Labelle, DAV; Secretary Ken Ness, PVA.

Council officers from 09/14 through 06/15 were: Chairman Robert Piaro, VVA; Vice Chair David Schmidt, AMVETS; Secretary Ken Ness, PVA.

Attachment A of this report is a list of the members of the Council and the organizations they represented during the 2013-14 and 2014-15 reporting period.

Minutes of the Council on Veterans Programs meetings are on file at the Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office, 201 W. Washington Ave., Madison and on the Department's web site at [www.wisvets.com](http://www.wisvets.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
COUNCIL ON VETERANS PROGRAMS



David Schmidt, Chair

Enclosures

RECEIVED

MAR 07 2016

## COUNCIL ON VETERANS PROGRAMS 2013-2014

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| DAVID SCHMIDT<br>AMVETS<br>N16365 LAKESHORE DR.<br>BUTTERNUT, WI 54514<br>715-762-4182<br><a href="mailto:dwschmidt80@gmail.com">dwschmidt80@gmail.com</a>                                       | MIKE ROHAN<br>AMERICAN LEGION<br>631 LONE OAK LN<br>VERONA, WI 53593<br>608-837-9763<br><a href="mailto:mdnrohan@tds.net">mdnrohan@tds.net</a>                               | MIKE SOEHNER<br>AMERICAN RED CROSS<br>1001 KRIEDEMANN DRIVE<br>STOUGHTON, WI 53589<br>608-873-8620<br><a href="mailto:Oldtrooper22@charter.net">Oldtrooper22@charter.net</a>                 |
| PAUL FINE<br>ARMY NAVY UNION<br>8010 N 67 <sup>TH</sup> ST<br>BROWN DEER, WI 53223<br>414-354-4139 <a href="mailto:paulr1929@att.net">paulr1929@att.net</a>                                      | CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS  | TONY TYCZYNSKI<br>CVSO ASSOCIATION<br>505 BROADWAY, RM 205<br>BARABOO, WI 53913<br>608-355-3260 <a href="mailto:ttyczynski@co.sauk.wi.us">ttyczynski@co.sauk.wi.us</a>                       |
| ALBERT W. LABELLE, JR.<br>DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS<br>1505 S. CHERRY AVE<br>MARSHFIELD, WI 54449<br>715-486-9220<br><a href="mailto:al.labelle.dav@hotmail.com">al.labelle.dav@hotmail.com</a> | BEN BERLIN<br>JEWISH WAR VETERANS<br>2801 WEST GOLF CIRCLE<br>MEQUON, WI 53092<br>262-242-4265<br><a href="mailto:bberlin1@wi.rr.com">bberlin1@wi.rr.com</a>                 | RANDY S. BJERKE<br>MARINE CORPS LEAGUE<br>W9417 US HWY 12<br>BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI 54615<br>715-284-0226<br><a href="mailto:Randy.bjerke@co.jackson.wi.us">Randy.bjerke@co.jackson.wi.us</a> |
| ROGER FETTERLY<br>MOAA<br>5356 BETLACH RD<br>SUN PRAIRIE, WI 53590<br>608-837-9558<br><a href="mailto:Fetterly@charter.net">Fetterly@charter.net</a>   | F. E. SPANGLER<br>MOPH<br>415 E 4 <sup>TH</sup> ST<br>RICHLAND CENTER, WI 53581<br>608-647-4169<br><a href="mailto:fespangler@hotmail.com">fespangler@hotmail.com</a>        | WILLIAM SIMS<br>NABV<br>4424 N 74 <sup>TH</sup> ST<br>MILWAUKEE, WI 53218<br>414-463-7423  |
| RUSS ALSTEEN<br>NAVY CLUBS OF USA<br>1345 VELD AVE<br>GREEN BAY, WI 54455-9615<br>920-469-6358 <a href="mailto:uijk@aol.com">uijk@aol.com</a>  | KEN NESS<br>PVA<br>14600 CRESTWOOD COURT<br>ELM GROVE, WI 53122<br>262-796-1224 <a href="mailto:kbness@aol.com">kbness@aol.com</a>   | DANIEL A. KLOSOWSKI<br>PLAV<br>9015 WEST ROCHELLE AVE<br>MILWAUKEE, WI 53224<br>414-379-2637<br><a href="mailto:wiplavvetspost11@gmail.com">wiplavvetspost11@gmail.com</a>                   |
| LENNY SHIER<br>THE RETIRED ENLISTED ASSOC<br>PO BOX 277<br>CHETEK, WI 54728<br>715-296-1115 <a href="mailto:lennyshier@yahoo.com">lennyshier@yahoo.com</a>                                       | ELIZABETH BENN<br>UNITED WOMEN VETERANS<br>163 AMBER TRAIL<br>SUN PRAIRIE, WI 53590<br>608-235-3901 <a href="mailto:beth@adney.net">beth@adney.net</a>                       | OWEN WILLIAMS<br>US SUBMARINE VETERANS WWII<br>309 GIBSON ST, APT N<br>MUKWONAGO, WI 53149<br><a href="mailto:Barbss220@gmail.com">Barbss220@gmail.com</a>                                   |
| MICHAEL L. FURGAL<br>VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS<br>1411 14 <sup>TH</sup> AVE<br>MONROE, WI 53566<br>608-222-3323<br><a href="mailto:gunner@wekz.net">gunner@wekz.net</a>                           | MARK FOREMAN<br>VVAW<br>11325 W. DAPHNE<br>MILWAUKEE, WI 53224<br>414-760-9991<br><a href="mailto:foreman1589@sbcglobal.net">foreman1589@sbcglobal.net</a>                   | ROBERT PIARO<br>VVA<br>8444 COUNTY ROAD M<br>FREDONIA, WI 53021-9613<br>262-692-6333<br><a href="mailto:piarousmc@gmail.com">piarousmc@gmail.com</a>   |
| MIKE GOURLIE<br>WACVO<br>5102 OPENWOOD WAY<br>MADISON, WI 53714-3455<br>608-221-4900 <a href="mailto:michael@gourlie.com">michael@gourlie.com</a>  | FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ<br>WI AMERICAN GI FORUM<br>1201 SCHILLER ST<br>WATERTOWN, WI 53098<br><a href="mailto:Wi-agif@sbcglobal.net">Wi-agif@sbcglobal.net</a>                    | WILLIAM F. HUSTAD<br>WISCONSIN VIETNAM VETERANS<br>W4489 EXETER ROAD<br>MONTICELLO, WI 53570<br>608-527-2942 <a href="mailto:wfhus1@tds.net">wfhus1@tds.net</a>                              |
| GARY TRAYNOR<br>BLINDED VETERANS ASSOC<br>2216 21 <sup>ST</sup> STREET<br>RICE LAKE, WI 54868<br>715-475-1213 <a href="mailto:gstraynor@aol.com">gstraynor@aol.com</a>                           | DONALD L. HEILIGER<br>AMERICAN EX-POW<br>2433 LESLIE RD<br>MCFARLAND, WI 53558-9773<br>608-838-1345 <a href="mailto:dheiliger8613@charter.net">dheiliger8613@charter.net</a> |  |

## COUNCIL ON VETERANS PROGRAMS 2014-2015

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| DAVID SCHMIDT<br>AMVETS<br>N16365 LAKESHORE DR.<br>BUTTERNUT, WI 54514<br>715-762-4182<br><a href="mailto:dwschmidt80@gmail.com">dwschmidt80@gmail.com</a>                                       | PAUL FISK<br>AMERICAN LEGION<br>308 SUNSET DR<br>LODI, WI 53555<br>608-516-8687<br><a href="mailto:paulfisk@charter.net">paulfisk@charter.net</a>   | MIKE SOEHNER<br>AMERICAN RED CROSS<br>1001 KRIEDEMANN DRIVE<br>STOUGHTON, WI 53589<br>608-873-8620<br><a href="mailto:Oldtrooper22@charter.net">Oldtrooper22@charter.net</a>  |
| PAUL FINE<br>ARMY NAVY UNION<br>8010 N 67 <sup>TH</sup> ST<br>BROWN DEER, WI 53223<br>414-354-4139 <a href="mailto:paulr1929@att.net">paulr1929@att.net</a>                                      | CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS   | BILL ROSENAU<br>CVSO ASSOCIATION<br>230 WEST PARK ST<br>WAUTOMA, WI 54982<br>920-787-0446<br><a href="mailto:williamr.parkstreet@co.waushara.wi.us">williamr.parkstreet@co.waushara.wi.us</a>                         |
| ALBERT W. LABELLE, JR.<br>DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS<br>1505 S. CHERRY AVE<br>MARSHFIELD, WI 54449<br>715-486-9220<br><a href="mailto:al.labelle.dav@hotmail.com">al.labelle.dav@hotmail.com</a> | BEN BERLIN<br>JEWISH WAR VETERANS<br>2801 WEST GOLF CIRCLE<br>MEQUON, WI 53092<br>262-242-4265<br><a href="mailto:bberlin1@wi.rr.com">bberlin1@wi.rr.com</a>                                | TIM BARANZYK<br>MARINE CORPS LEAGUE<br>3560 s. 81 <sup>ST</sup> STREET<br>MILWAUKEE, WI 53220<br>414-628-7081<br><a href="mailto:tbaranzyk@wi.rr.com">tbaranzyk@wi.rr.com</a>   |
| ROGER FETTERLY<br>MOAA<br>5356 BETLACH RD<br>SUN PRAIRIE, WI 53590<br>608-837-9558<br><a href="mailto:Fetterly@charter.net">Fetterly@charter.net</a>   | WILLIAM LOBECK<br>MOPH<br>16510 RIDGEVIEW LN<br>VIOLA, WI 54664<br>608-538-3194<br><a href="mailto:l2west@mwt.net">l2west@mwt.net</a>   | WILLIAM SIMS<br>NABV<br>4424 N 74 <sup>TH</sup> ST<br>MILWAUKEE, WI 53218<br>414-463-7423   |
| RUSS ALSTEEN<br>NAVY CLUBS OF USA<br>9410 RIEREON LANE<br>SURING, WI 54174<br>920-655-0136 <a href="mailto:uijk@aol.com">uijk@aol.com</a>  | KEN NESS<br>PVA<br>14625 CRESTWOOD COURT<br>ELM GROVE, WI 53122<br>414-322-1914 <a href="mailto:kbness@aol.com">kbness@aol.com</a>  | JOHN RECKLIES<br>PLAV<br>4314 NORTH 68 <sup>TH</sup> STREET<br>MILWAUKEE, WI 53216<br>414-527-9933<br><a href="mailto:Jreck50@aol.com">Jreck50@aol.com</a> / <a href="mailto:jreck50@wi.rr.com">jreck50@wi.rr.com</a> |
| LENNY SHIER<br>THE RETIRED ENLISTED ASSOC<br>PO BOX 277<br>CHETEK, WI 54728<br>715-296-1115 <a href="mailto:lennyshier@yahoo.com">lennyshier@yahoo.com</a>                                       | ASHLEY NATYSIN, UWV<br>OFFICE OF INSURANCE COMM.<br>125 S WEBSTER ST<br>MADISON, WI 53707<br>608-267-2833<br><a href="mailto:ashley.natysin@wisconsin.gov">ashley.natysin@wisconsin.gov</a> | RUSSELL COLLINS<br>US SUBMARINE VETERANS WWII<br>S71 W19820 SIMANDL DR<br>MUSKEGO, WI 53150<br><a href="mailto:diamond7@rocketmail.com">diamond7@rocketmail.com</a>   |
| MICHAEL L. FURGAL<br>VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS<br>1411 14 <sup>TH</sup> AVE<br>MONROE, WI 53566<br>608-222-3323<br><a href="mailto:gunner@wekz.net">gunner@wekz.net</a>                           | RICH PETERS<br>VVAW<br>5849 HACKER DRIVE<br>WEST BEND, WI 53095<br>262 334-0862<br><a href="mailto:petersbcl@hotmail.com">petersbcl@hotmail.com</a>   | ROBERT PIARO<br>VVA<br>8444 COUNTY ROAD M<br>FREDONIA, WI 53021-9613<br>262-692-6333<br><a href="mailto:piarousmc@gmail.com">piarousmc@gmail.com</a>  |
| MIKE GOURLIE<br>WACVO<br>5102 OPENWOOD WAY<br>MADISON, WI 53714-3455<br>608-221-4900 <a href="mailto:michael@gourlie.com">michael@gourlie.com</a>  | FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ<br>WI AMERICAN GI FORUM<br>1201 SCHILLER ST<br>WATERTOWN, WI 53098<br><a href="mailto:Wi-agif@sbcglobal.net">Wi-agif@sbcglobal.net</a><br>920-206-6660/414-803-8343      | WILLIAM F. HUSTAD<br>WISCONSIN VIETNAM VETERANS<br>W4489 EXETER ROAD<br>MONTICELLO, WI 53570<br>608-527-2942 <a href="mailto:wfhus1@tds.net">wfhus1@tds.net</a>   |
| GARY TRAYNOR<br>BLINDED VETERANS ASSOC<br>2216 21 <sup>ST</sup> STREET<br>RICE LAKE, WI 54868<br>715- 475-1213 <a href="mailto:gstraynor@aol.com">gstraynor@aol.com</a>                          | DONALD L. HEILIGER<br>AMERICAN EX-POW<br>2442 COUNTY ROAD AB<br>MCFARLAND, WI 53558<br>608-838-1345 <a href="mailto:dheiliger8613@charter.net">dheiliger8613@charter.net</a>                |   |



# AMVETS

AMERICAN VETERANS

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN



WAR MEMORIAL CENTER  
750 N. LINCOLN MEMORIAL DR.  
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202-4018  
SUITE 306

Phone: (414) 273-5288

Phone: (414) 273-5240

Fax: (414) 273-1270

e-mail: [amvetswi@yahoo.com](mailto:amvetswi@yahoo.com)

web-site: <http://www.amvets-wi.org>

September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

To: Chief Clerk, State of Wisconsin

From: AMVETS Department of Wisconsin

RE: Activities and Membership report for AMVETS, a member of the Council on Veterans' Programs.

In compliance with the 1989 Wisconsin Act 36, the following report is submitted outlining the current AMVET membership and activities.

As of the end of our membership year, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013 our membership was 3688.

As of the end of our membership year, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014 our membership was 3544.

The AMVETS Dept. of Wisconsin does not have a National Service Officer since the National AMVETS closed our office at the Zablocki Medical Center in 2006. At this time, we still cannot afford to fund a State Service officer. We are referring our members, or other veterans to other Veterans Service Organizations or to County Veterans Service Officers when asked for information on veteran's benefits.

We have V.A.V.S. personnel at the Zablocki, Middleton, and Tomah, Minneapolis and Iron Mountain V.A. Hospitals and representative at the State Veterans Homes at King, Union Grove and Chippewa Falls, WI.

At the V.A. Hospitals, we provide equipment, weekly bingo/card parties, picnics bowling parties, casino nights and numerous other seasonal activities. At the King Veterans Home, beside the above equipment and activities, we help maintain the miniature golf course and volunteer in the woodworking facility. At the Union Grove Veterans Home, we provide regular recreational activities as per the season. Personal care kits are given out to new admissions as well as greeting, Christmas and calling cards at appropriate times of the year. We have also taken on a new mission at Union Grove to provide services to homeless Veterans at a temporary shelter to include clothing, food and entertainment.

Our organization has contributed approximately \$170,000 in cash and equipment and over 35,000 hours of volunteer time to all of the above mentioned VAMC's and Homes.

AMVETS is the fourth largest National Veterans Service Organization in the country. Chartered by Congress in 1946. AMVETS and its subsidiary organizations, The Ladies Auxiliary, Sons of AMVETS, Junior

AMVETS, SAD Sacks and AMVETS riders provide much in the way of service to veterans and their communities.

AMVETS in Wisconsin as well as throughout the Nation, sponsor such projects as: The National wheelchair games, Freedoms Foundation, Fisher House, Operation DVD for deployed troops, Blood/organ Donor Drives, Wisconsin Veterans Stand Downs, boy and Girl Scout programs. Special Olympics, Drug and Alcohol Abuse Awareness Programs and ROTC awards at nine universities and JROTC awards at three high schools, college Scholarship Programs at both the State and National levels and Americanism programs for K-12 grades that include Essay, Flag coloring and Poster contests.

There are also various projects taken on by members of the organization to support special activities such as the building and upkeep of war memorials and Bell carillons at Wood National Cemetery in Milwaukee and State Veterans Cemeteries in King, Union Grove and Spooner, WI. Our organization has also contributed to the historical buildings on the grounds of the Zablocki Medical Center. All posts within the organization also participate in the Funeral Honors program, Flag presentation for individual as well as businesses and Freedom Flights.

The National AMVETS has signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Guard to provide support to all mobilized and deployed units of the National Guard and their families and has mandated that all Departments throughout the country get involved in the program. Although many posts throughout Wisconsin are already supporting their local guard and Reserve units we will be encouraging more of our posts to get involved. The National AMVETS Service Foundation has established a Healing Hero's Program to help fund family visits to severely wounded military personnel throughout the United States and is encouraging the Wisconsin AMVETS to help with this project.

The Wisconsin AMVETS continues to fund its very own Terminally ILL Veterans Last Wish Fund to help service connected terminally ill veterans and their immediate families enjoy a special activity together in a place that's special to them. This fund is still growing financially but with time and the generosity of our posts, members and others, we expect this to be a very successful program.

This report is a true, though abbreviated statement of our organization's activities and aims

Submitted by,



Michael S. Kandziora

Executive Director

**The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin**  
**GENERAL SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY AND MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Membership for The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin at the conclusion of the 2014 membership year was 63,204 and for the 2012 membership year stood at 66,869. Activities of The American Legion for this report reflect the functional programs conducted by the Department Headquarters, Service Office and Camp American Legion as well as those carried out in local communities across Wisconsin by local posts.

**VETERANS REHABILITATION PROGRAM**

The Department coordinates volunteer activities at USDVA and Wisconsin DVA facilities through the Department Hospital Committee which is established under the authority of the Department Constitution & Bylaws and it reports to the Department VA & R Committee. The Department maintains representatives at eight (8) VA and WDVA facilities. Department volunteers from the entire American Legion Family are very active at each of these facilities.

In addition to volunteers on site to visit and assist patients, notable among activities are the following:

**Zablocki VAMC-Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

African-American Veteran Appreciation Day jointly sponsored each February by Milwaukee Post No. 18 and the Cornice Grace Post No. 455 of the Department.

Poppy and Gift Shop maintained by The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin which hires disabled American Legion members to construct poppies for distribution. The Gift Shop provides hospitalized veterans who are bedridden with gifts to share with their family members during the holiday season.

Weekly Bingo games for hospitalized veterans sponsored by local Milwaukee area American Legion Posts.

Coordination of visits by patients from the Zablocki Spinal Cord injury Unit to Camp American Legion at Lake Tomahawk, Wisconsin.

**Tomah VAMC-Tomah, Wisconsin**

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Fishing Derby was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 on the Hospital grounds at the fishing pond constructed by The American Legion in 1959. Meal service was provided by the local American Legion Posts.

Coordination of visits by patients from Tomah VAMC Chemical Dependency Unit to Camp American Legion.

## Wisconsin Veterans Home-King, Wisconsin

The Department of Wisconsin has sponsored "American Legion Day" at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King on Fathers' Day since 1955. This year the event was held on June 21, 2015 with National Commander Mike Helm as our special guest. Residents were treated to lunch featuring barbeque chicken, potato salad and ice cream. Live music was provided as volunteers and staff at the facility assisted the residents who enjoyed the meal in a park like setting. The program featured Commander Helm, along with Department Commander Robert Shappell as well as other American Legion District and Department officers. Representatives of the Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion were in attendance also. The Legion Riders Association of Wisconsin led the annual parade. Funding to support the activities were provided by The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin.

The Department actively encourages and supports youth volunteers at facilities in Wisconsin as well as Minnesota and Michigan that serve Wisconsin veterans. SAL members are active volunteers at Zablocki, Madison, Ft. Snelling and Tomah VA Medical Centers. Boy Scout Troop 11, sponsored by Post No. 18 in Milwaukee, along with the Unit No. 18 Junior Auxiliary assisted with the Annual Christmas activities at Zablocki VA Medical Center. Post No. 416 of Greendale supported Boy Scout participation in the annual Memorial Day event at Zablocki VAMC in Milwaukee. At the Iron Mountain VA Hospital, American Legion volunteers work with local Boy Scouts on visitations during the course of the year. Tomah area Legionnaires again brought in junior high school students to assist veterans at the annual Fishing Derby held May 20<sup>th</sup>. American Legion volunteers also encourage youth participation at the LaCrosse and Milwaukee Stand Down outreach events for homeless veterans. Local high school and college students assisted at both of events held in 2015.

Camp American Legion has been helping veterans and their families since 1925. The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin and Camp American Legion have aggressively built strong collaborative working relationships to enhance services offered at Camp American Legion in the Town of Lake Tomahawk, Wisconsin. The Department was successful in adding an additional 225 acres of land to use in conjunction with Camp.

Our mission is helping injured and disabled veterans with a special emphasis on OEF/OIF/OND Iraq/Afghanistan veterans. Veterans returning to Wisconsin from service in Iraq and Afghanistan need not be alone in restoring their lives to normalcy. Combat veterans deal with stresses that effect their family and professional lives. Camp American Legion hosts weekly peer group counseling sessions to assist veterans deal Post-traumatic and Combat Operational stress. Camp American Legion now has two lakefront cabins dedicated exclusively for the use of veterans who have returned from Iraq and/or Afghanistan. These private cabins are designed to allow families to reunite and spend quality time together to reunify as a family.

Special activities at Camp American Legion for 2014 included:

- **U.S. Coast Guard – Morale and Team Building Week, May 5-11** - Sector Lake Michigan members with their family coming together to strengthen the personal bonds between all team members strengthening them all as they start their busy summer season.
- **Vietnam Veterans Week, May 12-18** – Designed especially for Vietnam veterans and their families.
- **WI National Guard - Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASSIT), May 19-25** - Camp hosted suicide intervention training for National Guard leadership.
- **Operation Home Front-Working Together to Eliminate Veteran Homelessness Week, June 2-8** – Reaching out and helping veterans who are in some position of homelessness, displacement or temporary housing situations. It gives them a time and place where as a group of veteran brothers and sister can feel welcome, cared for, valued while instilling in them a feeling of self-worth.
- **Women Veterans Week, June 23-27** - A week of special programming, workshops and programs focused on the needs of women veterans. Programs presented on women's health & wellness, employment, physical and psychological issues, relationships, peer support, networking, expression, caring for one self, friendships and more.
- **829<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Family Readiness Event, July 14-17** – For families of the 829<sup>th</sup> Engineering Company of the WI National Guard presently deployed to Afghanistan
- **WI National Guard Re-Enlistment Reward Event, July 17-19**
- **Post 9/11 Veterans Week, July 21-27** –With National Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team Event. Provides recuperation and convalescence for severely wounded, ill or injured Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines as well as their families. Camp provides facilities and access to medical care and assists them as they return to active duty or civilian life.
- **Camp Serenity-Families of the Fallen, August 15-17 – National Guard Survivor Outreach Services** - Losing a loved one is one of the most difficult times anyone can experience. The mission of SOS is to identify the needs of those touched by the loss of a loved one and provide services to these families.
- **Vision & Hearing Loss Veterans Week, August 18-24** - Designed to reach out and assist veterans with special vision and hearing loss related challenges.
- **Veterans Recovery Week, August 25-30** – Helping those veterans struggling with a dependency (drug, alcohol, etc.) issue.
- **Diabetes Camp, September 5-7** - Designed to reach out and assist veterans with challenges related to Diabetes.

Camp American Legion directly serves Wisconsin VA; **PTSD groups, Long Term Care groups, Community Support programs, Mental Health Intensive Care Management groups, Spinal Cord groups, Domiciliary** and more.

Camp has built collaborative working relationship with many programs whose sole focus is helping our “**High-Risk, Suicide Ideation**” veterans. Creating supportive, “**Battle Buddy**” type programs to help these hurting wounded warriors heal through a positive Camp

experience. Camp American Legion taking an active role in stopping the high number of veterans and active duty military from taking their own lives.

The American Legion of Wisconsin through Camp American Legion is positively impacting and changing lives!

Since the advent of the Global War on Terror in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Department of Wisconsin has made an ongoing effort to supply direct support in the form of cash grants to post-911 veterans and their families as well as funds to support activities of the Wisconsin based Reserve and National Guard units. The Wisconsin American Legion has been able to meet all manner of emergency needs and participate in unit deployments and demobilizations. In CY 2014, a total of \$24,027.31 was disbursed in direct aid and support. From January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015 an additional \$25,077.09 has been disbursed.

The Department of Wisconsin has conducted an assertive and proactive outreach program to promote Federal and State benefits in addition to our own Rehabilitative services. Department staff and volunteers attend over 60 Supermarkets of Veterans Benefits, Veterans Job Fairs and Business Summits to help acquaint veterans with the benefits they have earned by virtue of their military service.

All National Guard Armories, Air National Guard Bases, Army Reserve facilities, Naval Stations, and USMC Armories are visited regularly by local American Legion personnel during scheduled drills. A master list of contact information is available through Department headquarters which matches military facilities with local Legion contacts. Personal contact with members of the military on a regular basis allows for the distribution of materials that inform these service members of their State and Federal benefits. We also distribute materials that call attention to Camp American Legion in Lake Tomahawk as well as our Veteran Service Office in Milwaukee where returning veterans can receive assistance in obtaining their benefits.

Additional Comments:

The Department of Wisconsin Service Office at the VA Regional Office in Milwaukee continues to assist veterans and their dependents in obtaining their earned VA benefits. From 7/1/14 to 6/30/15, our Service Office has performed over 40,000 client services helping to obtain benefits totaling \$164,872,375.92. Benefits include education, vocational rehabilitation, burial, compensation, pension, death pension, automobile allowances and dependent indemnity compensation. We also assist veterans with obtaining awards and decorations, as well as applying for discharge upgrades.

The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin has developed a Veterans Employment Initiative which has been involved with many innovative efforts to reach out to veterans and employers this year. A partnership with the WI National Guard, the WI Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Workforce Development and The American Legion has produced

exciting results. Through this consortium, we were able to set up numerous Veterans Job Fairs across the state of Wisconsin, as well as "Business Summits" to promote the hiring of veterans.

These are extremely important endeavors to help veterans connect with employers given the state of the economy and high unemployment rates experienced by members of National Guard and Reserve components and the resulting negative effects on recruiting and retention. **Job Security for these service members is essential to National Security.**

### **YOUTH PROGRAMS**

|                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| American Legion Baseball              | Parade Appearances             |
| Boy Scouts                            | Badger Boys State              |
| Scholarships                          | County Youth Government Day    |
| Sons of The American Legion           | Shooting Sports Program        |
| Americanism & Government Test Program | Oratorical Scholarship Contest |
| Children & Youth Activities           |                                |

### **YEARLY EVENTS HOSTED OR SUPPORTED BY THE DEPARTMENT**

The Department conducts an annual Convention, Spring and Fall business meetings and an annual Midwinter Conference. Each year a delegation of Wisconsin Legionnaires travels to Washington DC to lobby elected representatives on issues effecting Wisconsin Veterans. In addition, Wisconsin Legionnaires participate in the annual National Convention of The American Legion and various National Workshops.

The American Legion is focused on four primary missions; the Care and Rehabilitation of our fellow Veterans, promoting an intellectual commitment to Americanism, providing wholesome activities for Children & Youth and ensuring a strong National Defense. This report, provided in accordance with s. 45.35 (3d) (b) WI Statutes, reflects The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin's efforts in achieving these goals.



08/17/2015

Dale H. Oatman, Commander



08/17/2015

David A. Kurtz, Adjutant



# BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION

OF WISCONSIN INC

Zablocki VAMC, W. National Ave, Room 72-D-20, Milwaukee, WI 53295,  
[gstraynor@aol.com](mailto:gstraynor@aol.com)

Subject: Activities report for the Blinded Veterans Association of WI, July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015

There are currently 147 members with the BVA of WI. Our bi-annual activities list for our group consists of:

- \* July 18, 2013 - Annual BVA picnic held at Zablocki VAMC, Milwaukee
- \* September 26, 2013 - Meeting and guest speakers at Rolling Meadows Restaurant, Fon du Lac, WI
- \* December 6, 2013 - Christmas Party held at Ho Chunk Casino, Lake Delton
- \* \* March 25, 2014 – Conference call meeting
- \* June 20, 2014 - Annual elections, selection of national convention delegate(s), Golden Corral, Green Bay
- \* July 18, 2014 – Meeting followed by annual picnic, held at the Vets Center, Burlington, WI
- \* October 17 - Meeting and guest speaker, Old Country Buffet, Madison, WIO
- \* December 5, 2014- Christmas Party, Ho Chunk Casino, Lake Delton, WI
- \* March 31, 2015 – Conference Call Meeting
- \* May 29, 2015 – Annual elections, selection of National Convention Delegate(s), Golden Corral, Green Bay, Wi

## BVAWI Officers

President  
Gary Traynor  
Rice Lake, WI

Vice President  
Dennis Marquardt  
Marinette, WI

Secretary/Treasurer  
Thomas Peralta  
Richland Center

Judge Advocate  
John Carter  
Greenfield, WI

Sergeant at Arms  
Ken Owens  
Fon du Lac, WI

Chaplain  
Sylvester Regan  
Sheboygan Falls



#### OFFICERS

Tony Tyczynski, Sauk  
President

William Rosenau, Waushara  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Joe Aulik, Kewaunee  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John Solis, Past President  
Rock Larson, Legislative Chair  
Mark Baldwin, Washington, 2015  
Tammy Walters, Oneida, 2015  
Ali Nelson, Racine, 2016  
Kevin Johnson, Ozaukee, 2016  
Scott Bachowski, Barron, 2017  
Kevin Johnson, Bayfield, 2017  
Charlene Cobb, Sheboygan,  
Treasurer

August 27, 2015

The Honorable David Schmidt  
Chairman, Council on Veterans Programs  
Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs  
PO Box 7843  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7843

Mr. Chairman

In accordance with the Wisconsin State Statutes 45.03(3)(b), the County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin, as a member of the Council on Veterans Programs, is submitting its Biennial Report for the period 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2015.

The County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin (CVSOAWI) is an organization of professional veteran's advocates. In Wisconsin, the County Veterans Service Officer plays a critical role in the veteran's advocacy system, and is often the initial contact in the community for veteran's seeking benefits and services. Through the individual County Veterans Service Officers, the CVSOAWI is committed to Wisconsin counties in providing a vital and efficient system of services and advocacy to veterans, their dependents and survivors.

The CVSOAWI promotes legislation and policy, both at the state and federal levels, that is supportive of veterans' rights, and issues that are in harmony with our national obligation to veterans of the United States armed forces. The association provides a medium for exchange of ideas and information, training, and support to facilitate the delivery of services to Wisconsin's nearly 480,000 veterans.

The CVSOAWI recognizes the importance and merit of the congressionally chartered veteran's service organizations, and is committed to fostering a mutually beneficial relationship for the common good of all veterans. It is the intent of this organization that every veteran residing in Wisconsin receives the benefits and services to which they are entitled by law and moral obligation.

Although the association's focus is on veterans in the state of Wisconsin, there are issues that have the potential to effect veterans nationwide. The association leadership and its legislative committee monitor and suggest federal legislative action on a continual basis. In 2013, the CVSOAWI, in collusion with NACVSO, was pivotal in introducing and supporting efforts to stymie "pension poaching", the effects of that federal law making effort are being incorporated into VA policy at the time of this report. In 2014 the association actively supported efforts to address the disparity in law, as it pertains to U.S. Marine Corps Reservists and their omission from Toxic Water at Camp Lejeune rulings.

State legislative priorities for 2013 and 2014 remained consistent:

- (1) Maintaining the requirement for, and integrity of CVSO offices by;
  - a. Preserving the statutory requirement and legislative intent that each county shall elect or appoint a county veteran service officer.
  - b. Preserving the statutory requirement and legislative intent that the county veteran service officer performs the duties prescribed by law separately and distinctly from any other county department.
- (2) Develop a source of ongoing funding for Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) operations.
- (3) Veterans preference in hiring;
  - a. Expand to include county and local municipal employees.
  - b. Expand preference beyond extra points on a competitive exam.
  - c. Extend preference to drilling National Guard and Reserve component service members
  - d. Require written justification if a veteran with preference is not selected.
- (4) Amend eligibility for Wisconsin GI Bill benefits to include veterans discharged for a service connected disability with an entry level (uncharacterized) discharge.
- (5) Remove the loss of income requirement from the disaster portion of the Aid to Needy Veterans Subsistence Grant.
- (6) Fully fund the Aid to Needy Veterans Grants to prevent outages during the fiscal year.
- (7) Provide Wisconsin Retirement credit for veterans serving after 1974.
- (8) Update of Wisconsin Statutes 45.05 to clarify which veterans' documents can be recorded at no charge, and who may have access to them.

The association currently has 70 participating County Offices, and 8 Tribal Veterans Service Offices. These comprise 144 representatives, recognized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Office of General Council, as holding accreditation, and acting as representatives of each of the veteran's service organizations with a presence in the VA Regional Office in Milwaukee. Through this representative relationship, CVSO's in the State of Wisconsin are able to actively represent veterans' interests in pursuit of federal benefits.

Although there are several avenues for veterans to submit claims to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and several ways to apply for benefits, the majority of claims and applications for benefits in Wisconsin are submitted through or with the assistance of County Veteran's Service Officers or their staff. Claims and applications for benefits prepared with the assistance of professional advocates, such as CVSO's, not only improves an individual veterans ability to present a clearer, more precise claim for benefits, it lessens the administrative burden on the VSO's and the VA by submitting complete and accurate claims, and increases the potential benefit realized by the claimant.

The CVSOAWI expands the knowledge and influence of the individual CVSO offices by hosting Spring and Fall training events for CVSO's and staff, by encouraging participation in the annual training conferences offered by the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers, and by advertising training opportunities offered by various professional advocacy agencies such as the National Veterans Legal Services Program and the Veterans Law Group. The influence of CVSO's and Staff in Wisconsin is further bolstered through the open sharing of successes and best practices through the association's CVSO forum and participation in regional training meetings. In addition, the association monitors mandated training and distributes official communications from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

In CY 2013 the effect of this influence was to assist the estimated 409,419 veterans in Wisconsin in gaining over \$972,000,000 in Compensation and Pension benefits, and in accessing nearly \$1.2 Billion in health

care benefits.

In 2014 both the veterans' population and the fiscal impact grew to an estimated 413,723 veterans realizing over \$1.1 Billion in Compensation and Pension benefits, and utilizing over \$1.26 Billion in health care.

Aside from the obvious economic impact to the veterans living in Wisconsin, the CVSOA-WI offers a much wider range of assistance; The association acts to refer veterans to CVSO's and appropriate agencies to gain assistance in the application for state benefits, such as the WI GI Bill, WI Property Tax Credit, enrollment in the State Veterans Homes, and the various grants offered by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs to meet optical, dental and subsistence needs, job referral and training benefits.

The association constantly endeavors to improve its outreach and accessibility through active involvement with its partners in the veterans' service community. Through collaborative and cooperative efforts with various state and federal agencies, through active participation and open exchange with veterans' service organizations, the CVSOAWI strives to ensure that each of Wisconsin's counties have the knowledge, the tools and the ability to extend caring, client focused services to our veteran's population.

Respectfully submitted,

William B. Rosenau  
First Vice President, CVSOA-WI

The author of this report can be contacted at:

Waushara County Veterans Services  
230 West Park Street  
P. O. Box 159  
Wautoma, WI 54982-0159  
Phone: (920) 787-0446  
[william.rosenau@co.waushara.wi.us](mailto:william.rosenau@co.waushara.wi.us)



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES  
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

## Department of Wisconsin

September 24, 2015

The Honorable David Schmidt  
Office of Chairman  
Council on Veterans Programs  
201 West Washington Avenue  
P.O. Box 7843  
Madison, WI 53707-7843

Dear Chairman Schmidt,

In compliance with the provisions in 45.03 (3)(b) of Wisconsin Statutes, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Department of Wisconsin submits the following report of activities and membership for the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015.

DAV is a nonprofit veterans' service organization, founded in 1920 and congressionally chartered in 1932. Nationwide, we have 1.2 million members, all of whom were wounded, injured or made ill from their wartime service. In Wisconsin, DAV has over 15,000 members.

DAV has one purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We do this through **Service** and **Advocacy**.

Fully non-partisan, DAV extends its mission of Service through a network of National Service Offices. These Offices are located in each of our 50 states and Puerto Rico.

They are staffed by National Service Officers who offer free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining VA and other government benefits earned through their service to our nation. National Service Officers are all wounded and injured wartime veterans who are also attorneys-in-fact. We are veterans helping veterans.

We also maintain 38 Transient Service Offices located at selected military bases throughout the Nation.

Nationwide in 2014, DAV represented over 340,000 veterans. In Wisconsin, DAV's National Service Office, located at the VA Regional Office in Milwaukee, represented over 12,000 Wisconsin veterans.

As part of our outreach activities, DAV has a Mobile Service Office (MSO) Program that goes directly into the veteran's community. Our National Service Officers literally go on the road assisting veterans where they live. Annually, our MSO makes numerous stops throughout Wisconsin, assisting veterans and their families.

Another major DAV Service Program is our extensive Transportation Network which provides free rides to all veterans who have difficulty getting to and from their scheduled VA medical appointments. Nationwide in 2014, DAV gave over 700,000 rides.

As part of this key national DAV Program, we in Wisconsin operate 44 volunteer-driven vans that crisscross the state. In 2014, DAV Wisconsin gave over 39,000 rides.

The Program is managed by DAV Hospital Service Coordinators (HSC) located at VA facilities in Milwaukee, Madison, Tomah, Green Bay, Appleton, Superior, and Iron Mountain.

*DAV WISCONSIN, 1253 Scheuring Road, Suite A, De Pere, WI 54115-1070  
Phone: (920) 338-8620 Fax: (920) 338-8621 e-mail: [gbdav@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gbdav@sbcglobal.net)*

DAV Wisconsin also maintains 45 Chapters in our state which also assist veterans at the local level and raise funds for our many State Programs.

These DAV Wisconsin Service Programs include a DAV Veterans Administration Voluntary Service (VAVS) Office located at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center. Other DAV VAVS Offices are located at VA facilities in Madison, Tomah, Superior, Minneapolis MN, and Iron Mountain MI. We also maintain DAV Voluntary Service Offices at the Wisconsin Veterans Homes at King and Union Grove. At all our Offices, volunteers stay in contact with patients on a daily basis, offering them assistance which is not available through the medical staff.

To honor the residents at the King and Union Grove Veterans Homes and the long-term residents at Tomah VA, DAV annually holds a special all-day function. DAV members visit the residents at these facilities who are non-ambulatory, bringing gifts and spending time with them. For the other residents, a picnic is held with food, beverages, prizes, and music.

Every year at Christmas time, the DAV Wisconsin Auxiliary manages a volunteer program at Tomah VA which provides gift cards to patients and their families to help brighten their holiday.

The Auxiliary also administers a Child Welfare program in conjunction with County Veterans Service Officers. One of our 7 DAV Districts is chosen each year, based on numerical rotation. Recipients in the chosen District are children of veterans with special needs.

As we always have, DAV is fully prepared to actively assist the continuing influx of our newest veterans on their return to our state from active duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the globe, as well as the older veterans currently residing in Wisconsin.

While our financial and staffing requirements are both large and demanding, we keep up with those demands through countless donors and volunteers who see the need for our DAV Service Programs.

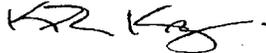
**Advocacy** is another DAV emphasis. DAV Wisconsin is extremely active advocating for the rights of wounded, injured and ill veterans on Capitol Hill in Washington and at the Capitol in Madison. Currently our advocacy efforts are entitled *Operation: Keep the Promise 2015*.

At the state level, we meet regularly with the Governor's Office, key legislators and key personnel at State Agencies. On the national level, we have met with our 2 Senators and many of our House members.

Recently DAV Wisconsin has been heavily involved with the Tomah VA overmedication issue, expressing our concerns to the Deputy VA Secretary, the Interim Under Secretary for Health, the House VA Committee, and the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

There are many veterans in Wisconsin who need service and advocacy. As we have for 95 years, DAV will always be there for them to see the Promise made to the men and women who served is kept.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kenneth L. Kuehl, Jr  
Adjutant

Disabled American Veterans  
Department of Wisconsin

Cc: Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs  
DAV Wisconsin Headquarters  
Al Labelle, COVP DAV Representative

DAV WISCONSIN, 1253 Scheuring Road, Suite A, De Pere, WI 54115  
Phone: (920) 338-8620 Fax: (920) 338-8621 e-mail: [gbdav@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gbdav@sbcglobal.net)

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE-BIENNIAL REPORT 2013-2015

August 27, 2015

Chief Clerk of Wisconsin State Senate  
Chief Clerk of Wisconsin State Assembly

Re: Wis. Stats. s.45.35(3d)(b)

The Marine Corps League (MCL) has been chartered by Congress as a Veterans Organization since 1937 and is also incorporated by the State of Wisconsin. National Headquarters for the Marine Corps League is in Merrifield, VA. Membership is restricted to honorably discharged Marines with over 90 days of service and current active duty Marines may join after 90 days of service. Certain FMF Navy Corpsmen and Navy Chaplains are also eligible for membership. As of 6/30/2015 the Marine Corps League in Wisconsin has 1,149 members and 25 MCL detachments.

The MCL is classified as a veterans/military service organization and was formed for purposes of promoting the interests of the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC); provide camaraderie and assistance to Marines and FMF Corpsman, as well as their surviving spouses and dependent children and to preserve the traditions of the USMC. It is a not-for-profit organization within the provisions of the IRS code 501(c)(4) with a special group exemption letter which allows for contributions to the MCL, auxiliary and subsidiary units to be tax-deductible by donor.

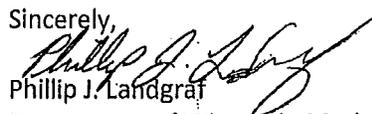
The Marine Corps League conducts volunteer work at VA hospitals, assists homeless veterans and those in need and fundraises/donates to numerous causes locally and nationally. Patriotic endeavors include marching in parades, assisting with burial of veterans and holding memorial services, conduction flag retirements and attending veteran related ceremonies. Local programs are held to preserve the memory and traditions of the USMC. Also, programs such as patriotic essay contests are offered to school children and scholarships are made available to eligible college students.

Local detachments sponsor Boy Scout/Girl Scout programs for youth. Some detachments assist in paying for school field trips to Washington D.C. to underprivileged children and have Young Marine programs operated in conjunction with the Marine Corps Reserve Units, instilling discipline, love of country and respect to the citizenry. Athletics and scholarships are fostered in Junior "Boot Camp".

The MCL has an auxiliary and honor society of Devil Dogs. They champion volunteer work and raising funds to assist active duty and reserve Marine units.

The Marine Corps League prides itself in being among our veterans organizations supporting issues of concern to our veterans, active duty and reserve members and their families.

Sincerely,

  
Phillip J. Landgraf

Department of Wisconsin Marine Corps League  
Council of Veterans Programs representative



**WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

DATE: September 15, 2015

TO: John A. Scocos, Secretary  
Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

FROM: Roger Fetterly  
Wisconsin Council of Chapters of the Military Officers Association of America  
(MOAA)

SUBJECT: 2014-15 Activities and Membership Report

Under Wisconsin Statutes, Section 45.03(3)(b), the following report of the Wisconsin Council of Chapters of the Military Officers Association of America is submitted:

**MOAA's MISSION.** Military Officers Association of America is a nonprofit Veterans' Association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and preserving the earned entitlements of members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service or NOAA and their surviving spouses.

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE.** The Wisconsin Council is an affiliate of the national organization, the Military Officers Association of America headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia. The Council is incorporated in the State of Wisconsin as a nonprofit veterans organization. The Wisconsin Council consists of the following board of directors and five chapters with a total of approximately 800 active members:

President, Glen "Rusty" Armstrong  
First Vice President, Vacant  
Second Vice President, Vacant  
Secretary/Treasurer, Leo Lesch  
Legislative Officer, Roger Fetterly  
Veterans Programs Officer, Roger Fetterly  
La Crosse Chapter, President, Walter Verdon  
Indianhead Chapter-Eau Claire, President, Keith Daniels  
Northeast Wisconsin Chapter-Green Bay, President, Michael Egan  
Southeast Wisconsin Chapter-Milwaukee, President, Helene Brown  
Southern Wisconsin Chapter-Madison, President, Steven Gauger

**MEMBERSHIP ON THE COUNCIL ON VETERANS PROGRAMS.** *2007 Wisconsin Act 25* signed into law on November 9, 2007 added a representative from the Wisconsin Council of the Military Officers Association of America as a member on the Council on Veterans Programs.

## ACTIVITIES.

1. Past Council President Loren Christensen joined representatives from all 50 states for the annual Council and Chapter President's Seminars held in Washington DC and Alexandria, Virginia in April 2015. The highlight of the seminar is the annual Storming of the Hill in which participants meet with their respective congressional delegates or staff. President Christensen delivered the following messages to the Wisconsin delegation: (1) Recognizing that pay raise comparability is the core tenet of the All-Volunteer Force, our congressional delegation is urged to support military pay and benefits comparable to private sector pay growth. (2) Address other inequities affecting disabled retirees, military widows and Guard/Reserve retirees. (3) Reject disproportionate TRICARE fee hikes and health plan changes.
2. Similarly, in April 2014 Loren Christensen, then President of the Council, participated in Storming the Hill where he met with the Wisconsin congressional delegation to advocate for legislation supporting compensation and benefits for members of the armed forces and oppose budget sequestration adversely affecting the armed forces and the national defense.
3. Representatives of the MOAA Council regularly participate in the Department of Veterans Affairs Stakeholder's Conferences and appear at legislative hearings to provide testimony or register in support of veterans' legislation.
4. MOAA National Headquarters provides the guest speaker on retiree's benefits at the annual Fort McCoy Retirees Appreciation Day.
5. In conjunction with the MOAA National guest speaker, the MOAA Council staffs a booth/table at the Fort McCoy Retiree Appreciation Day and Veterans' Benefits Expo to provide information on membership in the national organization and local chapters, and also provides information on benefits for veterans and retirees.
6. The local chapters present MOAA awards annually to ROTC students at all ROTC units at Wisconsin colleges and universities.
7. The Council sponsors a program which presents gold bars at annual ceremonies for newly commissioned officers at all Wisconsin colleges and universities with an ROTC program.
8. MOAA chapters all participate in local events as volunteers at VA hospitals, Wisconsin Veterans Homes, military family support activities, parades, school events and local and national scholarship programs.
9. MOAA chapters hold regularly scheduled social events for members and spouses at which an invited guest speaks on topics of interest which supports the mission and goals of the organization.
10. The Council holds a biennial convention in odd-numbered years to promote the State and National mission and goals of the organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Fetterly



**MISSION STATEMENT:** *to enhance the quality of life for uniformed service enlisted personnel, their families, and survivors – including active duty, veterans, Reserves, National Guard, and all retirees; to stop the erosion of earned benefits through our legislative efforts, maintain our spirit de corps, dedication and patriotism, and to continue our devotion and allegiance to God and Country.*

---

September 2015

Report to the WDVA – COVP

In Wisconsin we have a total of 7 TREA: The Enlisted Association Chapters. There are no Auxiliary Chapters. Chapters can be found across the state; Appleton, Eau Claire, Mosinee, Sheboygan, Superior, and Tomah.

The chapters across the state are involved with units that have been called up for deployment, supported the deployed unit with care packages, and held a benefit for the children of the deployed unit members. They have manned tables at Veterans EXPO's, Retirement Appreciation Days, Served as Honor Guard in numerous events, attend Memorial Day Events, Flags on grave sites, participated in parades, have been speakers at numerous events, held POW/MIA Ceremonies, aided the Salvation Army Christmas Bell Ring, Food Banks, Air Shows. Additionally the chapters also hold dinners and pass out awards to their members and also local citizen or businesses that contribute to this veteran organization.

At TREA National (501 (c) (19)) they have a website ([www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org)) that helps keep the membership informed with what is taking place at the national level; especially Washington D.C..

One area that is affiliated with TREA: The Enlisted Association is The Senior Citizens League (TSCL). It has 1.2 million supporters and is one of the nation's largest nonpartisan seniors groups. Their mission is to promote and assist members and supporters, to educate and alert senior citizens about their rights and freedoms as U.S. Citizens, and to protect and defend the benefits senior citizens have earned and paid for. TSCL which consists of vocally active senior citizens who are concerned about the protection of their Social Security, Medicare, and veteran or military retiree benefits.

TREA: The Enlisted Association continues to keep an eye and voice in Washington D.C. as our federal government keeps looking at reducing the "earned benefits" of its members and non-members alike.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Lenny**

Leonard "Lenny" Shier

The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)

Representative

COVP – WDVA

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



**Office of Joseph B. Hines, Adjutant**

P.O. Box 6128 • Monona, Wisconsin 53716-6128

4622 Dutch Mill Road, Madison, Wisconsin 53716

Phone: 608-221-5276 • Cell: 443-655-8457 • Fax: 608-221-5277

E-mail: [adj@wi.vfwwebmail.com](mailto:adj@wi.vfwwebmail.com) • Website: [hq@wi.vfwwebmail.com](http://hq@wi.vfwwebmail.com)

September 25, 2015

David Schmidt, Chairman  
Wisconsin Council on Veterans Programs  
C/o Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs  
201 W Washington Avenue  
P O Box 7843  
Madison, WI 53707-7843

RE: Council on Veterans Programs 7/1/2013 to 6/30/2015  
S.45.35 (3d) (b) Wisconsin Statutes – Activities and  
Membership Report

NAME: Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States  
Department of Wisconsin  
4622 Dutch Mill Rd  
PO Box 6128  
Monona, WI 53716-0628

PURPOSE AND  
OBJECTIVES

The objects of this association are fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism, to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies, whomsoever.

POSTS AND  
MEMBERSHIP

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Department of Wisconsin, was instituted on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of June 1921. In the State of Wisconsin, the VFW was comprised of 10 Districts, 2 County Councils and 281 Posts with a total membership of 31,099 as of September 26, 2015. The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars has a membership of 11,944 with 150 units. The Men's Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars has a membership of 100 in five units.

## DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

### VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



#### PROGRAMS FOR COMMUNITIES

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Wisconsin is very active in Community Services throughout the State. During the past two years, our Department had 257,966 hours of time donated.

Additionally our monetary donations totaled over \$1,239,000.00 to our programs. The following is a list of programs.

Beautification, renovation, health care and environmental concerns. Cooperation includes projects with schools, churches and other community organizations. Aid to others extends the helping hands of Post and Auxiliary members to local hospitals, the needy, the handicapped and senior citizens. In addition to these, there are programs devised by Posts and Auxiliaries to meet the needs of their particular communities.

The VFW promotes Safety programs, which provide education and assistance in the areas of driver education, bicycle safety, fire prevention, home security, and hunter safety. It also recognizes outstanding contributions of firefighters, law enforcement personnel and emergency medical technicians through the Recognition and Public Commending Programs.

Americanism and Loyalty Day projects stress the understanding and appreciation of the American way of life, and celebrate its history and honors its heroes who have gone forth to defend the country. Under this program, honor guards are provided for military funerals and for patriotic celebrations. Flags are presented to community organizations and a flag appreciation program teaches people how to present and care for the American flag. We have provided funding to light flagpoles at both the Pleasant Prairie and Land O' Lakes highway rest stops. We have also provided POW/MIA Flags at a cost of \$2,298 to rest stops throughout the state.

The Department of Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars has helped commemorate Loyalty Day in Wisconsin by organizing and staging Loyalty Parades in Viroqua, Wisconsin on April 25, 2014 and in New Richmond, Wisconsin on April 26, 2015. These parades had patriotic themes and included various veterans' organizations from across the state including a large number of VFW Posts.



Youth organizations such as the Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts also participated along with high school and middle school marching bands.

VFW, through all echelons of the organization, promotes youth activities. Scouting, baseball, soccer, bowling and junior rifle teams are the areas served by this program. Realizing that the youth of the nation are the future of the nation, the VFW stresses programs which develop an appreciation of the American way of life, a sense of individual accomplishment and fulfillment, team effort and patriotism. During the past two years the Wisconsin VFW has conducted a Scout of the Year Competition that is open to Eagle Scouts, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, Venture Silver Award Recipients and Sea Scout Quartermasters. Each year three winners (1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place) are selected and receive cash awards of \$500, \$350 and \$200. Each year the first place winner is entered into the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Scout of the Year Competition and is eligible to receive up to \$5,000 in Scholarship awards.

**Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.** The Department of Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars conducts this award program at the state level and three teachers from each level (k-5, 6-8 and 9-12) are selected as state winners. These state winners are then entered into the national competition. At the state level forty-five (45) teachers were nominated by forty-five (45) posts and ladies auxiliaries across the state. Six winners across the state were selected to compete at the national competition. Monetary awards of over \$8,500.00 were awarded to the winners at the state level by Department of Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars

**Frank W. Brown Scholarship Program.** This is a Wisconsin program that provides scholarships for applicants attending colleges and technical schools. Recipients must be a grandson/granddaughter/son/daughter of a Veterans of Foreign Wars or Ladies Auxiliary Veterans of Foreign Wars member. Over the last two years \$30,000.00 has been awarded to 94 recipients.

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



SERVICE TO  
VETERANS

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Wisconsin continues to answer the clarion call "No One Does More For Veterans" through its commitment of service to Wisconsin Veterans, their dependents, and survivors. A large part of this service is personified by the Service Officers at the Post, District and Department Level. These officers educate veterans on benefits available to them from the Veterans Administration as an earned benefit for their service to this nation. Our Service Officers assist veterans to file for benefits such as disability compensation, disability pensions, dependent death benefits, dependent pensions and other veterans assistance programs.

The linchpin of this effort is our Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Wisconsin Service Office located at the Veterans Administration Regional Office in Milwaukee. Our service office works with the men and women who serve as Post Service Officers in more than 281 VFW Posts statewide. As such, these individuals comprise the grass-roots link in our service network, which also includes our District Service Officers. In addition, we have an excellent working relationship with all 72 County Veterans Service Officers throughout the State of Wisconsin. Our Department Service Office also receives assistance from the support staff at Veterans of Foreign Wars National Veterans Service Office in Washington, DC.

During the last two years our Veterans Service office has conducted over 9,000 interviews, received and processed 35,000 items of correspondence, and filed over 16,000 claims. As a result of these efforts over \$60,000,000 has been awarded to Wisconsin veterans.

VETERANS  
ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM

This program helps homeless and needy veterans get services they need to obtain steady employment and affordable housing. Veterans who are not able to work because of physical or mental disabilities will receive help in obtaining long-term housing and other services they need to re-enter the mainstream of society.

BUDDY POPPY  
PROGRAM

The Buddy Poppy Program is specifically designed to "assist worthy Comrades, to perpetuate the memory and

## DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans." This end is accomplished in a two-fold manner. The Veterans in VA Hospitals and domiciliaries and in state veteran's homes assemble and package poppies for shipment to VFW Posts and Ladies Auxiliaries. The VFW pays these veterans for their work. The proceeds from these poppies sales are earmarked for veteran's welfare programs or to aid the needy dependents and orphans of veterans. In the last two years, over 691,000 Buddy Poppies were ordered by Wisconsin VFW Post and Ladies Auxiliaries to use as favors for hospital patients, nursing home residents and to distribute for monetary donations to help our Veterans.

### LEGISLATION

Every year the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Wisconsin researches and supports many worthy resolutions put on the State VFW Convention floor in June of every year. The Department of Wisconsin also submits, participates, reviews and votes on amendments and resolutions at the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention each year. At the state level our members actively engage state legislators and work closely with them on legislation that affects veterans in Wisconsin. Each year Department of Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars sends a delegation to Washington D.C. to meet with Representatives and Senators from Wisconsin and discuss veteran's issues. This year our delegation met with all eight (8) Wisconsin Representatives and both U.S. Senators in Washington D.C. Our members also participated in the nationwide Veterans of Foreign Wars "Meet them in their District," initiative to meet U.S. Representatives and Senators in their home districts and states. Each U.S Representative was visited by VFW Members from his or her district. Both U.S. Senators from Wisconsin also met with Department of Wisconsin VFW Members.

### VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

The Voice of Democracy is a speaking program is conducted during the fall terms of each year. This allows high school students in grades 9-12 the opportunity to win valuable scholarships and awards while expressing their ideas, thoughts and opinions. A total of over \$152,000.00 in National scholarships is available, plus many more on the local and state levels. In Wisconsin 1,520 students sponsored by 164 local VFW posts competed in the Voice of Democracy program and over \$60,000.00 in scholarships was awarded to local, district and state level winners.

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



PATRIOT'S PEN

Patriots Pen is a writing scholarship program available to 6-8 grades. The VFW has made a longstanding commitment to foster patriotism, promote Americanism and support our national youth within our local communities. Each year a total of approximately \$46,000.00 in savings bonds and checks is awarded at the national level competition to the top 46 national winners. In Wisconsin 13,109 students sponsored by 206 posts competed in the Patriots Pen program and were awarded over \$65,000.00 in cash prizes at the local, district and state level.

WISCONSIN  
VETERANS  
HOMES

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Wisconsin, is very excited about its relationship with the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, Union Grove and Chippewa Falls. The Department of Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars has representatives at each of these homes that plan and coordinate various activities for residents. We plan a yearly picnic for the residents of the Homes, plus many other visitations and monetary donations.

MILITARY  
ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM  
(MAP)

The Military Assistance Program (MAP) is the outstretched hand from the VFW to military units. MAP offers grants to VFW Posts that participate in military unit functions, such as sponsoring "Farewell and Welcome Home Activities," "Family Readiness Group" events or other sponsorship ideas.

UNMET  
NEEDS  
PROGRAM

The Unmet Needs Program provides grants and referrals to other organizations for active duty or recently discharged service members and their immediate families. This program assists with basic life needs to include housing expenses such as rent, mortgage, and repairs; vehicle expenses such as payments, repairs, and insurance; utilities, food, incidentals, children's and other similar expenses. During the past two years the Department of Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars has assisted 47 military and/or recently discharged veterans families with over \$35,000 in grants.

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



EMERGENCY  
DISASTER  
RELIEF

The Department of Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars maintains an Emergency Disaster and Relief Fund to assist VFW and Auxiliary members with funds to assist for immediate needs. During the past two years we have assisted 22 families with over with over \$13,850 in cash assistance.

VA MEDICAL  
CENTERS

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has representation at all VA Medical Centers in Wisconsin. These representatives are responsible for volunteer work and planned activities.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Wisconsin is extremely proud to participate on the Council of Veterans Programs. We thank the Department of Veterans Affairs and the State of Wisconsin for providing this opportunity to serve on the Council of Veterans Affairs.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph B. Hines".

Joseph B. Hines  
State Adjutant

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael L. Furgal".

Michael "Gunner" Furgal  
VFW Representative

Cc:  
Secretary John Scocos, WDVA



# Vietnam Veterans Against the War. Inc.

Wisconsin State Coordinator

John Zutz, 2922 N. Booth St. Milwaukee, WI 53212

414-372-0749 john@zutz.org

John Scocos, Secretary  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
PO Box 7843  
Madison, WI 53707-7843

Re: Activities and membership report to Council on Veterans Programs

September 18, 2015

Dear Secretary Scocos,

I know a report is required at this time, however, I wasn't notified by your office. Have the budget cuts become so bad that you can't send a letter regarding a legislatively required report? If so, perhaps you are supporting the wrong administration. I'm sure things are easier when you don't have to listen to a bunch of pesky veterans.

VVAW employs a full-time councilor to help veterans in making VA claims as well as assisting active duty GIs with military discharges, PTSD and more. We maintain an active web page and we publish a newspaper "The Veteran" twice each year.

We continue to council Vietnam veterans on PTSD and Agent Orange, and post-discharge readjustment, as we have since the 1970s. We try to provide information on radiation exposure, depleted uranium, "Gulf War Syndrome" and mesothelioma to other era veterans.

We participate in numerous activities to end the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. We have begun to support refugees in Europe, who were ultimately caused by U.S. policies in Asia. We work to remind people of what we should have learned from Vietnam and we try to influence policy so that a military response is the very last option.

Wisconsin VVAW membership has held steady over the past years at just below 200 members. Most members are located in the southeast area of the state.

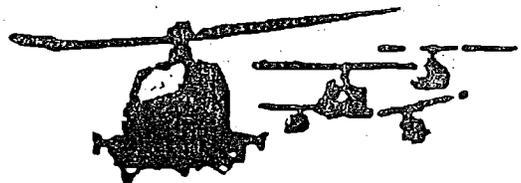
Our statewide efforts include our participation in the Council on Veterans Programs and support of the Highground Veterans Memorial. We also contribute to the Library of Vietnam and the My Lai Peace Park projects, all headed by Wisconsin veterans.

VVAW sponsors retreats where veterans and their families can socialize with others while discussing common problems and goals. We are involved in the struggle to maintain the Milwaukee VA "historic district" for veterans' uses. We give monetary support to the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative, which has helped place thousands of vets in housing. Members of our speaker's bureau visit classrooms and churches. Individual members and friends volunteer at the VA facilities in Milwaukee, Madison, Tomah, Iron Mountain, and Minneapolis.

VVAW does not participate in the parades on Memorial Day or Veterans Day. The parade organizers have locked us out, I guess we're not "real vets."

Sincerely,

John Zutz State Coordinator



## Ripp, Debbie

---

**From:** Ripp, Debbie  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2015 7:52 AM  
**To:** John Zutz  
**Subject:** Biennial Report

Good morning John,

I received your letter to the Secretary today. I am so sorry that you were not notified that the reports were due by September 30. The COVP members were reminded by the Chair at the July 20 meeting that the reports are due to the legislature by 9/30/15. I also sent a reminder to all the members on 7/31/15. It is the COVP member's responsibility to coordinate with their commanders. If there is anything I can do to assist you or Rich, please let me know, I would be happy to help in any way I can. There is still time to submit a report.

Debbie

Debra L. Ripp  
Executive Staff Assistant  
Office of the Secretary  
Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs  
201 W. Washington Avenue  
Madison, WI 53707  
(608) 266-1315  
1-800-WIS-VETS or 1-800-947-8387



# **Vietnam Veterans of America**

# **Wisconsin State Council**

## Activities and Membership Report Vietnam Veterans of America Wisconsin State Council

**Vietnam Veterans of America, Wisconsin State Council during the period of 1 July 2013 through 30 June 2014 held four (4) State Council Meetings in Waupaca and at The Highground in Neilsville.**

**We also conducted Agent Orange Town Hall Meetings in Kansas over a three day period. This was at the request of the Kansas State Council. We also conducted a Agent Orange Town Hall at the National Leadership Conference in Kansas City, Kansas. They were well accepted form all in attendance.**

**VVA also conducted several Agent Orange Town Hall Meetings in the State of Wisconsin.**

**Membership during 2013 and 2014 was 1975.**

**From the period of 1 July 2014 through 30 June 2015. VVA again held the State Council Meetings at the same locations as 2013/14. At The Highground meeting we held elections and Richard Lindbeck was reelected as State Council President, Robert Piaro, Vice President, Pat Craney, Treasurer, and James Mullarkey, Secretary.**

**We also conducted Agent Orange Town Hall meetings at the Oneida Nation. One in Manitowoc, WI with several scheduled during the year.**

**Membership grew to just over 2000. VVA National is holding a Fire Sale on membership from 1 August to 31 December 2015 for Life Members at \$100. National membership is at 75,300+ at this time.**



**I attended Camp American Legion to give a talk to the personnel that had a week for Vietnam Veterans. This was an outstanding event for those that were at Camp American Legion.**

**VVA continues to be involved in the Vietnam 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Program. I sit on the board with WDVA on this program and will continue to promote the 50<sup>th</sup> commemoration at any event or group that I come in contact with.**

**VVA, Wisconsin State Council will continue to work with WDVA on various programs and are proud to be involved with Veterans Programs throughout the State of Wisconsin.**

**Richard W. Lindbeck, President  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
Wisconsin State Council**



# American GI Forum - Wisconsin

A Congressionally Chartered Veterans Family Organization  
Dr. Hector P. Garcia – Founder – 1948

George F. Banda – State Commander  
[gfbanda101@yahoo.com](mailto:gfbanda101@yahoo.com) 414-732-6242

P.O. Box 105, Milwaukee, WI 53201  
[wi-agif@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wi-agif@sbcglobal.net)

September 1, 2015

## Wisconsin 2015 State Report to the Council on Veterans Programs

The purpose of letter is to submit the Wisconsin State Report for the period of August 1, 2014 through July 30, 2015.

The primary goal and areas of interest for the AGIF-Wisconsin are Membership; Legislative Actions/ Veterans Benefits; Services and Civic Participation.

### I. Membership

- A. Primary focus is younger veterans, especially OIF/OEF veterans. Once our Forum matures, we will focus on women and youth representation.
- B. In development are three chapters Madison, NE Wisconsin and Racine.
- C. Those members that have not renewed their membership for two years or more have been terminated from membership, we have gotten at least one member for each one that has been lost, we are getting younger members..

### II. Legislative Actions

- A. Maintained a seat on the Wisconsin Council on Veterans Programs (COVP) composed of representatives from 26 Wisconsin veterans service organizations, the Milwaukee County Allied Veterans Council; and Board of Directors of the Milwaukee War Memorial Center.
- B. State Commander is also involved with many other VSO as are most of our members particularly the elected officers. This allows us to put the name of the AGIF in Wisconsin.
- C. Participated in committee hearings on state veterans' legislative proposals.

### III. Service

- A. Continued a service process for current members and recruiting new members (recognizing that services for veterans will attract prospective younger members, older veterans, and women).

- B. Continued to partner with other organizations to provide veterans and their families with counseling and outreach on health care, employment, and federal/state/county benefits.
- C. Created partnerships/coalitions with other veteran service organizations and established non-for profit organizations so that we can better compete for state and federal grants for veteran-specific supportive services.
- D. Received a Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Services, to develop a service delivery process to better reach Latino veterans and their families in the SE area of Wisconsin.

IV. Civic Participation/Recognition

- A. AGIF-WI and LULAC Wisconsin partnered in presenting a screening of a new documentary called "Letters Home to Hero Street", the directors and some actors were brought in, the Screening was held at the Milwaukee County War Memorial.
- B. Continued to expand community services projects to include Color Guard services; Memorial Day, Flag Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Mexican Fiesta, 16 de Septiembre and Veterans Day parades. Memorial activities such as Final Salutes and military funeral honors, among other activities which enhance the recognition of the AGIF and the Wisconsin Latino family.

The Wisconsin AGIF State Conference is tentatively scheduled for October 17, 2015 in Milwaukee. At that Conference, a new Wisconsin AGIF State Commander will be elected.

Please call on me for additional information at email, [gfbanda101@yahoo.com](mailto:gfbanda101@yahoo.com), or at telephone, (414-732-6242

Respectfully,

George F. Banda  
State Commander  
AGIF-Wisconsin

Date: August 9, 2015  
To: Council on Veterans Programs  
From: William F. Hustad  
Council Rep. of Wis. Vietnam Veterans Inc  
Subject: Activities and Membership Report

Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Inc was formed by several Vietnam veterans in Milwaukee in 1984. The organization was formed to address the needs of the Vietnam veteran that were not being met by existing veteran groups. A veteran must have earned a Vietnam Service ribbon to be eligible to join, most members are combat veterans.

Currently there are five chapters throughout the State of Wisconsin. Chapter One is in Milwaukee; Chapter Three is in Green, Rock, and Southern Dane County; Chapter Four is in Western Dane and Iowa County; Chapter Five is in the Madison Area; and Chapter Seven is in the Richland County area. Our total membership is approximately 400.

Our mission is to keep the POW - MIA issue alive in the general community, explain the Vietnam experience to school age children and to the general population, assist fellow veterans, participate in community activities, and provide a social outlet for Vietnam veterans to gather.

Events that we support, and / or participate in are:

- support homeless veterans and their families through Standdowns
- volunteer in VA Hospitals
- support various veteran memorials/projects such as
  - Washington DC Vietnam Veterans Memorial
  - Washington DC Womens Vietnam Veterans Memorial
  - Wisconsin Veterans Park in Neillsville
  - Green County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Monticello
  - Milwaukee's War Memorial Museum and Park
  - Wisconsin Veterans Homes at King and Union Grove
  - Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison
- offer speakers to elementary and high school classes on patriotism, proper care of the flag, and our Vietnam experience
- participate in many local parades with Color Guards and Marching Units
- give support to families and servicemen during their military service by doing things such as: Support Our Troops rallies during Operation Iraqi Freedom and sending 'We Care' packages overseas to military personnel
- sponsor Veterans Rallies such as Winterfest in New Glarus



Scott Walker, Governor  
John A. Scocos, Secretary

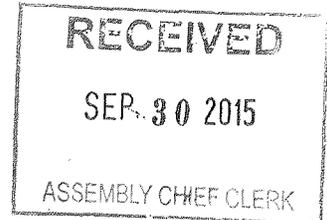
STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

201 West Washington Avenue  
P.O. Box 7843  
Madison, WI 53707-7843  
Phone: (608) 266-1311  
Toll-free: 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387)  
Fax: (608) 267-0403  
Email: WisVets@dva.wisconsin.gov  
Website: www.WisVets.com

September 30, 2015

Honorable Jeffrey Renk  
Senate Chief Clerk  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Honorable Patrick Fuller  
Assembly Chief Clerk  
17 W. Main Street, Room 401  
Madison, WI 53703



In accordance with Wis. Stats. s.45.35(3d)(b), the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and the Wisconsin Council on Veterans Programs jointly submit the biennial report to the Chief Clerk of each house of the Legislature for distribution to the Legislature under s.13.172(2). The reports include a general summary of the activities and membership over the past two years of the Council on Veterans Programs and from each organization represented on the Council.

The information contained in the report was compiled by WDVA staff and the Council Chairman from materials submitted by the representative from each active organization on the Council. The following veterans' organizations have submitted Activities and Membership Reports:

AMVETS, American Legion, Blinded Veterans Association, CVSO Association, Disabled American Veterans, Marine Corps League, Military Officers Association of America, The Retired Enlisted Assoc., Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Vietnam Veterans of America, Wisconsin American GI Forum and Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans. The Catholic War Veterans have been inactive since 2011.

The following organizations have yet to provide their biennial report: American Ex-Prisoners of War, American Red Cross, Army Navy Union, Jewish War Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, National Association for Black Veterans, Navy Clubs of the USA, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Polish Legion of American Veterans, United Women Veterans, US Submarine Veterans of WWII and Wisconsin Association of Concerned Veterans Organizations.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (608) 266-1315 for further information or assistance.

Sincerely,  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

JOHN A. SCOCOS  
Secretary