UNION GROVE NEWS

WDVA WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT of VETERANS AFFAIRS

THE WISCONSIN VETERANS HOME AT UNION GROVE

JANUARY 2023

COMMANDANT'S CORNER

The New Year is a time for new opportunities, goals, and reflecting on the past year. If you are unsure about what kind of resolution to make, think about the three primary categories: personal health, mental health, and life experiences. Many people choose resolutions like saving money, losing weight, or taking that special vacation with your family. Some people strive to give back to the community more and to help others.

As employees of the Wisconsin Veterans Homes, we face challenges and receive rewards all year long. There is nothing more rewarding than helping others and serving our Veterans. Every staff member in every department is needed and appreciated by the Veterans, their families, and our Team. Whatever you set as your new year's resolutions, the effort, and time can help you throughout the year live with a sense of gratitude, empathy, and compassion.

– *Kimberly, Commandant*

DINING SERVICES

We helped the activity staff throw a successful Christmas party where members and their families really enjoyed the food, especially the shrimp and meatballs. Members enjoyed special meals for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and rang in 2023 with some fun treats for the New Year's Eve party.

As always, and especially during the holiday season, we are grateful for the staff and volunteers who show up to work daily for our veterans to have healthy meals three times a day, seven days a week. Thank you!

– *Brenna, Dietician*

BUILDING & GROUNDS

All construction projects are completed except for a few small details in the new kitchenettes. These projects also included restrooms, receptionist front desk, nurse's stations, and elevators. We had a great year in productivity with 600 completed work orders as of December 15, 2022 and a total of 1,141 since the TELS system began in July of 2021. We have done a great job keeping up with all preventative maintenance and all monthly inspections!

– *Stevie, Buildings and Grounds Director*

HOUSEKEEPING

I want to say thank you to Kim and Irene for volunteering to help for the Christmas party. They did a wonderful job cleaning and helping serve food. Great teamwork!

– *Dee, Housekeeping Director*

THANK YOU TO AMERICAN LEGION POST 171, LAKE GENEVA AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, ST. MARY'S BY THE LAKE, AND LAKEVIEW PTO FOR THE DONATION OF GIFTS FOR MEMBERS!

DONATIONS

We are grateful for the generous support we receive. Thank you to the many individuals and organizations that donated money and in-kind throughout the year.

We received $2,375 in monetary donations during the month of November.

We also received wonderful non-monetary donations including a catered meal, pub/happy hour supplies, candy treat bags, root beer and ice cream for floats, cookies, and Veterans Day mugs. Sixteen organizations or individuals provided Veterans Day cards for our members.

VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED OVER 60 HOURS OF SERVICE IN NOVEMBER. THANK YOU SO MUCH TO OUR HARDWORKING VOLUNTEERS!

NURSING

We are excited to welcome Bridgett Gaddy to our weekend nursing team beginning January 15!

We are actively recruiting more staff with multiple interviews scheduled weekly and have Career Fairs booked to attend early 2023.

We recently overhauled our orientation practices to promote a positive onboarding experience that increased employee retention. Shift huddles for all nursing staff improved communication across shifts and made a positive impact on attendance.

Nursing Leadership attended the Member Meeting and enjoyed hearing all the childhood Christmas stories members shared.

We just had our Christmas Party, which was a very rewarding experience for our team to witness members interacting with their families and see faces lighting up to the sight of their loved ones. Some members whipped out their harmonicas, others danced, and all had a wonderful time.

We wish everyone a Happy New Year!
– Margaret, Director of Nursing;
Pia, Assistant Director of Nursing

ACTIVITY & VOLUNTEER

Members enjoyed a busy holiday season. December began with songs by the **Racine Community Church carolers**. After two years, we were able to invite families to our Member Christmas party. Everyone had a wonderful time enjoying food, entertainment, and the company of loved ones. **St. Mary's By The Lake** provided many wish list items and **American Legion Post 171** donated many wonderful gifts specific for our men and women Members. **Lake Geneva American Legion Auxiliary** provided gifts for our women. **Lakeview PTO** provided individualized gifts for all Members.

The Vietnam Veterans of America provided a sponsored bingo event. Volunteer **Mary Harman** provided beautiful Christmas sing-along tunes for our Happy Hour. We jingled and mingled with holiday mint and eggnog shakes accompanied by **Music by Lenny**. The activity staff caroled throughout the halls singing Members' favorite Christmas carols. We ended this busy holiday season with our festive New Year's Eve game party loaded with treats.

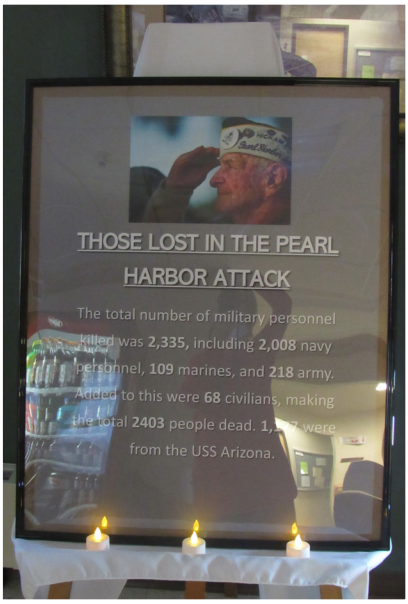
We also received many handmade Christmas ornaments from students who participated in **Governor Evers'** Christmas creation. Students across Wisconsin created Christmas ornaments highlighting how Wisconsin's vast waterways have influenced them, their communities, and our state.
– Terri, Activity and Volunteer Director

AS WE HEAD INTO WISCONSIN WINTER HERE AT UNION GROVE, WE INVITE YOU TO SPEND TIME WITH OUR MEMBERS OR SERVE THEM BY:

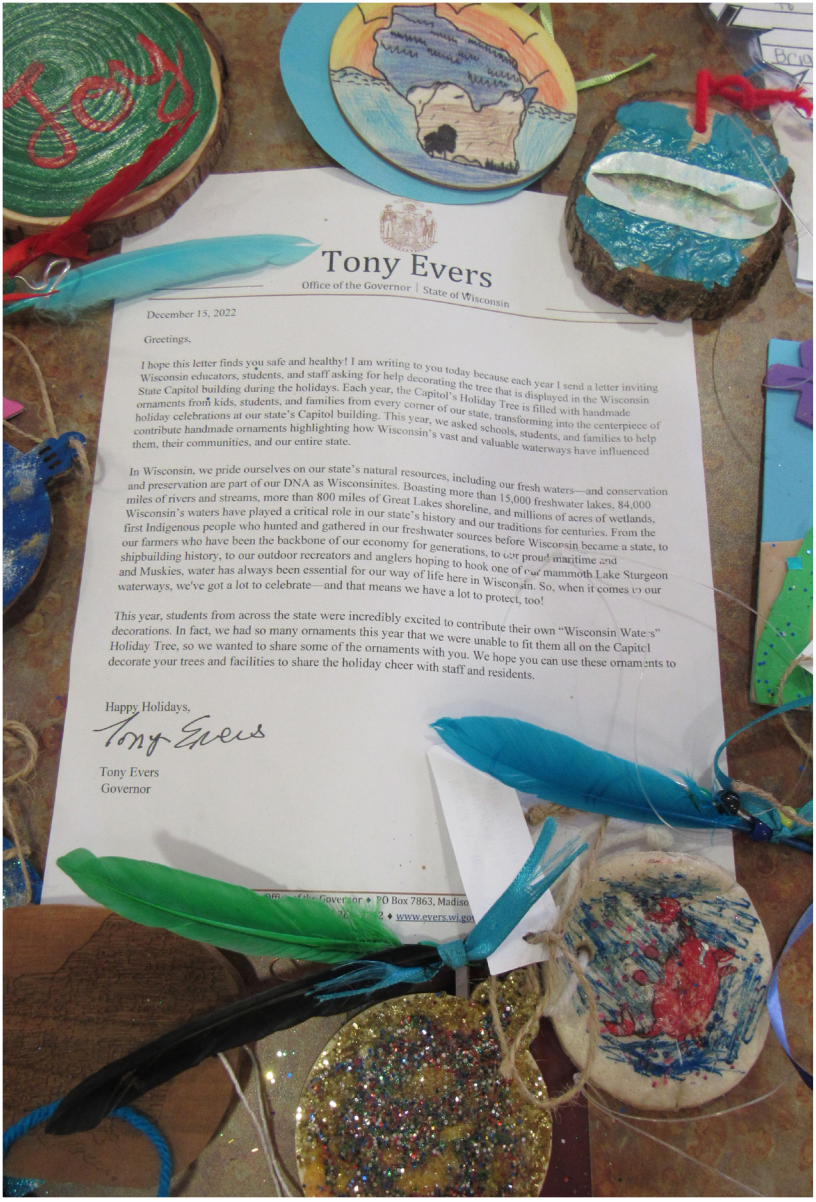
Providing nutritious and delicious food
with kitchen food prep and tray line help

Getting Members' comfortable clothes
clean and pristine in laundry

Visiting Members on the memory unit—
reading to Members, assisting with activity programming, or taking them for wheelchair walks throughout the campus



REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR



Tony Evers
Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

December 15, 2022

Greetings,

I hope this letter finds you safe and healthy! I am writing to you today because each year I send a letter inviting Wisconsin educators, students, and staff asking for help decorating the tree that is displayed in the Wisconsin State Capitol building during the holidays. Each year, the Capitol's Holiday Tree is filled with handmade ornaments from kids, students, and families from every corner of our state, transforming into the centerpiece of holiday celebrations at our state's Capitol building. This year, we asked schools, students, and families to help contribute handmade ornaments highlighting how Wisconsin's vast and valuable waterways have influenced them, their communities, and our entire state.

In Wisconsin, we pride ourselves on our state's natural resources, including our fresh waters—and conservation and preservation are part of our DNA as Wisconsinites. Boasting more than 15,000 freshwater lakes, 84,000 miles of rivers and streams, more than 800 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, and millions of acres of wetlands, Wisconsin's waters have played a critical role in our state's history and our traditions for centuries. From the first Indigenous people who hunted and gathered in our freshwater sources before Wisconsin became a state, to our farmers who have been the backbone of our economy for generations, to our proud maritime and shipbuilding history, to our outdoor recreators and anglers hoping to hook one of our mammoth Lake Sturgeon and Muskies, water has always been essential for our way of life here in Wisconsin. So, when it comes to our waterways, we've got a lot to celebrate—and that means we have a lot to protect, too!

This year, students from across the state were incredibly excited to contribute their own "Wisconsin Waters" decorations. In fact, we had so many ornaments this year that we were unable to fit them all on the Capitol Holiday Tree, so we wanted to share some of the ornaments with you. We hope you can use these ornaments to decorate your trees and facilities to share the holiday cheer with staff and residents.

Happy Holidays,

Tony Evers

Tony Evers
Governor

STATE CAPITOL TREE DECORATIONS & CHRISTMAS CAROLING

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS FROM BOLAND HALL

ALONG WITH HOLIDAY PARTIES FULL OF FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND CHEER, EACH FLOOR IN BOLAND HALL CELEBRATED WITH THEIR VERY OWN CHRISTMAS CAROLS. ENJOY!

First Floor

T'was the month of December and all through first floor, We were having festivities and fun times galore.

The art projects were hung on the walls with care, And the bingo games played were all very fair.

We celebrated with a cheerful family party, The music was great and the food very hearty.

We had happy hour, ice cream, and carolers too. We've been very busy the whole month through.

No rest for us, there's more to come, never fear, We are looking forward to celebrating a Happy New Year.

Maybe next month, we will have time to rest. Activities at the Veterans Home truly are the best!

Second Floor

Wheeling through the halls, At the Veterans Home we live

All the groups we love, Laughing with our friends

In Harmony club we sing, And Cards we love to play

Oh what fun it is these days, To socialize and play, oh!

2nd Floor, 2nd Floor, 2nd Floor is fun , Oh, what fun it is to have activities all month long

2nd Floor, 2nd Floor, 2nd Floor is fun, Oh, what fun it is to be a member on the run!

Now don't forget the bingos, Or ice cream socials, too

The Christmas Party was such a hit, but happy hour is, too

We're really good w/ word games, And working in the woodshop

If you offer us food and drink, We'll never leave the room, oh!

2nd Floor, 2nd Floor, 2nd Floor is fun, Oh, what fun it is to have activities all month long

2nd Floor, 2nd Floor, 2nd Floor is fun, Oh, what fun it is to be a member on the run!

Third Floor

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, Here on the 3rd Floor;

Take a look at the Christmas Tree, decked out in blue & green

With ornaments and musical trees galore.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas,

Lights on every board, but the funniest sight you'll see are the veteran elves that'll be

On their own room doors.

A forest of musical trees grace the room, if you please

Were a craft project they would say;

A terrible pun and the days' worth of fun

Appear on the white board every day.

And members all can hardly wait for caroling again.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Here on the 3rd Floor;

There's bingo at the sound of the bell, movies and treats as well,

The kind of treats that makes your belly swell.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas;

Soon the gifts will start,

And the smiles that the gifts will bring are the joys this season brings

In each and every heart!

IF YOU'RE A VISITOR OR VOLUNTEER, PLEASE CHECK-IN AT THE KIOSK BEFORE MOVING ABOUT THE BUILDING. VOLUNTEERS MUST BE TESTED FOR COVID BEFORE VISITING MEMBERS. PLEASE CONTACT TERRI PRESSER AT 262-878-6725 IF YOU'RE UNSURE OF THE REQUIREMENTS OR PROCESS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT!

HOLIDAY CHEER WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

JINGLE AND MINGLE & MORE MERRIMENT

JANUARY EVENTS

HERE ARE SOME OF THE SPECIAL EVENTS PLANNED FOR JANUARY. PLEASE REFER TO EACH FLOOR'S MONTHLY ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR THE COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF ALL OUR WONDERFUL ACTIVITIES.

Monday, January 9th - **Ice cream social with Dave** - 1:30PM - Pub

Tuesday, January 10th - **Vietnam Veterans of America sponsored bingo** - 2:00PM - MPR

Friday, January 13th - **Happy Hour with Mary Harman at the piano** - 2:00PM - Pub

Wednesday, January 18th - **Gathering of Friends** - 10:00AM - Pub

Thursday, January 19th - **Open Art** - 9:30AM-10:30AM - Open art room

Friday, January 20th - **Chinese New Year event** - 2:00PM - Pub

Monday, January 23rd - **Ice cream social with Dave** - Pub

Thursday, January 26th - **Open art** - 9:30AM-10:30AM - Open art room

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bill Bradley – January 15th
James Abuya – January 17th
Bill Baumgardt – January 18th
Ernst Groth – January 25th
Halmond Parks – January 26th