



May 27, 2021

Dear Union Grove Members, Friends, and Family:

With the COVID-19 vaccine now readily available and the completion of multiple vaccination clinics here at Union Grove, we are grateful for having been able to keep the COVID-19 virus largely at bay. For weeks now, we have been able to enjoy in-person visits and hold small scale activities. (As a reminder, it is always best to call ahead or visit www.WisVetsHomesCOVID.com to confirm which member units are open before traveling for a visit.)

Unfortunately, as we've reported previously, we've seen a small number of positive cases. Although one staff and two members tested positive for COVID-19 during the past few weeks, Union Grove has been COVID-free since last Friday. Union Grove also experienced the recent death of a member that has been attributed to COVID-19. We are saddened by this loss and continue to keep the loved ones of that member in our thoughts.

I also wanted to let you know of the leadership change that occurred yesterday. Erin Johnston is no longer the commandant and recruitment efforts are underway for a permanent successor. Initially, onsite leadership for member matters will be provided by Beth Wishau, director of social services. Beginning June 21 and until the permanent replacement is hired, Doug Wamack, licensed nursing home administrator, will serve as the interim commandant. Doug is being temporarily reassigned from his role as executive director of Ainsworth Hall at the Veterans Home at King.

We fully recognize that change can be stressful and uncertain. I would like to assure you that every decision we make regarding our Wisconsin Veterans Homes is grounded in our mission of service on behalf of Wisconsin's veterans and their families. Please do not hesitate to contact your care team if you have questions or concerns.

As we move forward, we are committed to communicating openly and transparently with updates to follow. Thank you for your patience and understanding at this time.

Sincerely,

Diane Lynch
Administrator of the Division of Veterans Homes