

THE VETERAN VOICE

WISCONSIN VETERANS HOME AT UNION GROVE



Message from the Secretary

Mary M. Kolar

As we embark on this new year, I want to take a moment to thank all of you – members, staff, family, and other loved ones who are part of our Union Grove community – for your perseverance in 2020. Faced with an unimaginable challenge, we buckled down and, together, got through a very difficult year.

Our frontline workers – nurses, CNAs, housekeepers, nutrition services, and more – have continued to battle COVID-19. And while our collective hearts broke when we lost members of our community to this terrible virus, you all kept up the good fight to keep so many safe and healthy. Our community members and families have also done their part. Thank you for being so patient with us and putting health and safety first. I am overwhelmingly proud of and deeply thankful for all of you. What a year 2020 has been but watching all of you has given me so much hope.

While things may never be back to “normal,” I feel positive about the future and the steps we are taking as we begin vaccinations at our veterans homes. As you are aware, last month employees and members at Union Grove received their first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine from our pharmacy partner. We will beat back this virus, and I look forward to brighter days.

Let us embrace 2021 and look forward to the opportunities that await with a renewed appreciation for each other and our health. In the meantime, please do not let down your guard. I am optimistic that one day in the near future we will be able to look back on 2020 with our friends and family by our sides, and we will once again be able to share meals, share a hug with our loved ones, and gather with our communities without fear.

New Visitation Procedures

Scheduling Visits

- All visits will be scheduled online via [Sign Up Genius](#). Go to <https://bit.ly/UGVisits> to sign up.
- Appointments will be scheduled on a first come, first serve basis.
- Please only sign up for one visit at a time.
- If the facility enters outbreak status, in person visits may be cancelled. These visits will be rescheduled later via phone call from the facility.

Screening Visitors

- All visitors will be required to sign-in and be screened for COVID-19 to include a temperature check and screening questionnaire.
- Visitors must pass an antigen POC (point of care) COVID-19 test performed at the facility. This is a rapid 15-minute test and can be self-performed with direction from Union Grove’s monitor staff.
- Any visitor who has a positive COVID-19 test in the community **MUST** report these results to the facility for the safety of staff and Members. Visitors who have a positive COVID-19 test in the community following their visit to our Home must also report these results.

More information at [WisVets.com](#)

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Holiday Cheer & New Year

Though the holidays looked different this year, members and staff still found ways to have fun this past holiday season. This year they celebrated the 12 Days of Christmas with activities including Santa hats, ornament making, reindeer games, and more. From everyone at Union Grove have a happy and safe new year.



Member Birthdays

- Thomas Kinnard - 1st - 2/1
- Ralph Pitz - 1st - 2/1
- Vincent Zizzo - 3rd - 2/1
- Edward Zawistowski - 3rd - 2/2
- Sharon Harris - GH - 2/3
- Neil Schueneman - 1st - 2/7
- Richard McCalla - 3rd - 2/7
- Maurice Carroll - GH - 2/22
- Raymond Young - 1st - 2/23
- Betty Justus - 3rd - 2/26

COVID-19 Vaccine



Members and staff began receiving the COVID-19 vaccine in early January.

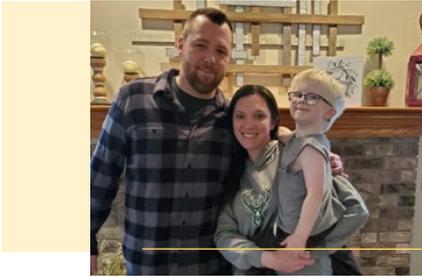
Pictured are a member and staff member receiving their second dose in late January.

Welcome New Members

- Charles Blankley - Navy - Peace Time
- Jack Inda - Marines - Korean War
- Timothy Remer - Army - Vietnam War
- Dale Richter - Army - Peace Time
- Richard Rundel - Air Force - Peace Time
- Raymond Wszalek - Marines - WWII

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Commandant's Column

I hope you all had a Happy Holiday season and a fantastic start to your New Year. As we get 2021 underway, I wanted to provide a few reminders.

Please continue to drop off belongings for your loved one at the front door of Boland Hall. If you are dropping off perishable food, let the front desk know so it can be placed in the refrigerator or freezer quickly. Remember to put the Member's name on any food that is dropped off. Homemade food is acceptable, but it needs to again, have the Member's name on it and include the date prepared. Per state guidelines we can only keep food for up to 72 hours. Food dropped off must also follow any dietary restrictions. Any laundry dropped off should be marked with the Member's name.

Please leave valuables at home. Things can easily be misplaced, thrown away and broken. If you wish to send money to your loved one, it should be sent directly to the facility Attn: Finance Department with your loved one's name.

I am happy to report that the facility had an infection control survey on January 4th and 5th, 2021 which resulted in no citations issued. We continue to strive for success and follow all CDC and DHS guidelines. Please continue to check the facility website for updates regarding the Homes' COVID status.

Please call the facility if you have questions. The main facility line is staffed Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. and on weekends and holidays from 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

On behalf of the veterans and activity staff at the Veterans Home, thank you for all the community sponsorship and support during this holiday season. Thank you to Lakeview School, several Veterans Service organizations, the local churches, and families. We are truly grateful to be a part of such a generous and kind community. Thank you for remembering our veterans during this time.



Wish List

Gift cards to NASCO Senior Activities catalog or Walmart.

Monetary funds for activities supplies and special events.

Prizes for Activities:

- Fun size snack bars.
- Bags of Individually wrapped chocolate candies.
- Diet soda.
- Small bags of chips.

Walmart gift cards.

For a complete list of items visit: www.WisVets.com

Member Safety, Apple Products, & Pacemakers

Recently, WDVA became aware of potential issues with Apple products and pacemakers. Union Grove does not provide any of these products. Family and friends are encouraged to be cognizant of these issues if providing tech to members.

[Apple warns about having the iPhone 12 close to pacemakers](#)

[About the magnets inside iPhone 12, iPhone 12 mini, iPhone 12 Pro, iPhone 12 Pro Max, and MagSafe accessories](#)

[Life Saving Therapy Inhibition by Phones Containing Magnets](#)