

THE VETERAN VOICE

WISCONSIN VETERANS HOME AT UNION GROVE



Message from the Secretary

Mary M. Kolar

Can you believe that one year ago, COVID-19 precautions were put into place across the state, including here at the Veterans Home at Union Grove? What a difficult year it was. We had to change the way we live – we missed seeing our family and friends in person, we celebrated the holidays without our loved ones, some of us even battled this virus and are still feeling its effects, and many have even lost someone we love.

But there were also moments to celebrate during the last 12 months. We discovered how well we were able to adapt. We learned about technology and found new ways to communicate, we innovated to host socially distant activities and car parades, we supported each other in new ways, and we witnessed the generosity of our community through their donations (including the thousands of masks that were made by hand by volunteers), and then we celebrated as our doors were opened for safe visits with family.

What a joyful day it was last month when we were able to begin allowing in-room visits. I know the Union Grove staff have loved every minute of being able to welcome our members' friends and family to campus and it has been wonderful to hear about the long-awaited reunions between our residents and their loved ones.

Yes, COVID-19 upended our lives for more than a year, but now spring is here. The birds are singing, we have begun to see new leaves on the trees and the appearance of flowers, and we have started to enjoy the warmer weather. The world is already looking brighter, and we can be cautiously optimistic.

My hope is that, with safety in mind and as circumstances allow, we can continue to enjoy activities inside Union Groves' buildings as well as throughout our grounds. We can't predict the future, and there is still so much that is unknown about this virus. But we will continue to work toward our new "normal."

Celebrating Dedication

April 18 to 24th was National Volunteer Appreciation Week and in honor of this WDVA would like to celebrate Terri Presser, MT-BC, WMTR, NMT, who is the Union Grove Activity and Volunteer Coordinator.

"It has been my honor to work for the Wisconsin Veterans Home in Union Grove for over 6 years as the activity director and volunteer coordinator. As a military wife, I hold the care of our veterans very close to my heart. I have served in the field of geriatric care for almost 25 years as a music therapist, activity director and volunteer coordinator."

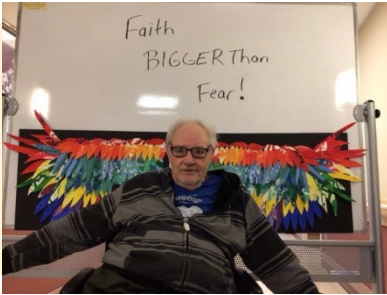
Presser knows the importance and the positive impact that volunteers have on our members at the Veterans Home. By volunteering time, these individuals provide smiles, happiness, and increase the members quality of life.

Presser has been married to her husband for 39 years and have lived in many different places during her husband's 20-year career in the US Air Force. She is a proud mother and grandmother.



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From the Activities Dept.

During this challenging COVID pandemic, our Members have continued to enjoy their favorite leisure activities and special events (adapted as individual visits). Activities include; cards, bingo, woodworking, ceramics, trivia, 12 Days of Christmas, Valentine's Day photos, St. Patrick's Day shamrock shakes.....

In order to maintain family communication, they have also engaged in Zoom, FaceTime calls, letter writing, window visits, phone calls, and e-mails.

As COVID restrictions are slowly lifting we are excited to share that group programming resumed effective Monday, March 22nd. We will continue maintain safety precautions with groups of 10 Members or less, 6 feet apart, with masks worn.

Because we are slowly reopening the facility, at this time, we will not be resuming our volunteer program. Volunteers will be welcomed back into the facility when we no longer have limits on the amount of people allowed in the building at any given time. We want to assure that our families have priority in visiting with their loved ones.

Vietnam Veterans Day, Mar. 29

Members that served in Vietnam and the Vietnam era were celebrated on March 29 that included a virtual ceremony and concert.

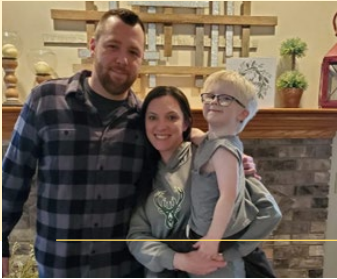


Member Birthdays

- Geoffrey Abbott – 3rd – 3/4
- Warren Wollmer – 2nd – 3/7
- Robert Jablonski – GH – 3/14
- John Martin – 2nd – 3/15
- Dennis Hipke – 1st – 3/17
- Roy Jackson – GH – 3/18
- Charles Hall – 1st – 3/25
- Timothy Remer – 2nd – 3/26
- Ralph Lewandowski – 2nd – 3/27
- Leo Kmiec – 2nd – 4/8
- Dennis Lanser – 3rd – 4/9
- Judith Reale – 2nd – 4/9
- Richard Rundel – 3rd – 4/12
- Richard Narlow – 2nd – 4/12
- Richard Carbonneau – GH – 4/16
- Randal Green – 2nd – 4/18
- Raymond Wszalek – GH – 4/21
- James Flynn – GH – 4/24
- Everett Stewart – 3rd – 4/25
- Michael Heffernan – 1st – 4/30
- John Gugg – GH – 5/1
- Robert Callan – 1st – 5/5
- Keith Hall – 2nd – 5/8
- George Hix – GH – 5/8
- John Munch – GH – 5/14
- Leonard Yow – 3rd – 5/18
- Robert Rosera – 2nd – 5/19
- William Rosenbaum – 1st – 5/21
- Jack Nelson – 1st – 5/21
- Bruce Zartner – 3rd – 5/23
- James Lotzer – 1st – 5/24
- Michael Uhler – 3rd – 5/24
- Luther Phillips – 1st – 5/31
- William Brehm – 3rd – 6/1
- Dolores Feld – 3rd – 6/2
- Wallace Goetsch – 2nd – 6/2
- Duane Merrill – GH – 6/2
- Kenneth Eglund – 2nd – 6/6
- James Phillips – GH – 6/8
- Wayne Davis – 1st – 6/11
- Glenn Hickson – 1st – 6/12
- Bruce Girga – GH – 6/18
- Kenneth McKean – 3rd – 6/22
- John Stopa – 3rd – 6/30

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Commandant's Column

Welcome back families!

I want to thank you all for your ongoing patience during the pandemic. It is heartwarming to see families back with their loved ones! To ensure visits can continue in a safe manner, we will require visitors adhere to the Core Principles of Infection Control which include:

- Screening for COVID-19 signs and symptoms, utilizing the screen kiosk at Boland Hall
- Hand hygiene
- Wearing a mask/face covering, always
- Social distancing while in the members' rooms

Further information can be found through the CDC's website found at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html or the Wisconsin Department of Health website at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov.

As the weather is starting to improve, outdoor visits are allowed and encouraged. It's amazing what some sunshine can do for all of us. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. To limit movement within the facility, if you wish to speak with staff, please ask that they come to the member's room to discuss.

Upcoming Recognitions

- May 6-12 – National Nurse's Week
- May 9-12 – National Nursing Home Week
- May 31 – Memorial Day
- June – National Safety Month
- June 17-24 – National Nursing Assistant Week

*Check the Activities Calendars for Upcoming Events



Wish List

Gift cards to NASCO Senior Activities catalog or Walmart.

Monetary funds for activities supplies and special events.

Prizes for Activities:

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

For a complete list of items visit:

www.WisVets.com

Welcome New Members

- William Brehm – Army – Peace Time
- Robert Callan – Air Force – Vietnam
- Robert Crawford – Air Force – Korean
- Wallace Goetsch – Army – Korean
- Kenneth McKean – Navy – Vietnam
- Doyle Moore – Army – Korean
- Ernest Moorner – Navy
- Robert Pettit – Marine – Peace Time
- Judith Reale – Spouse of Vet
- William Rosenbaum – Army – Peace Time
- Robert Schultz – Army – Vietnam
- Everett Stewart – Army – Korean
- John Stopa – Army – Peace Time
- Leonard Yow – Army – WWII