

# THE VETERAN VOICE

WISCONSIN VETERANS HOME AT UNION GROVE

21425 G Spring Street  
Union Grove, WI 53182  
Phone: (262) 878-6700

Veterans Home - Union Grove



# THE VETERAN VOICE

WISCONSIN VETERANS HOME AT UNION GROVE



## State Fair Comes Home

Prior to COVID Members were able to enjoy the traditional State Fair by eating Cream Puffs and watching pig races. This year, the fair came to the Members of Union Grove through fair inspired activities hosted by the Activities Department. Fun was had by all as Members enjoyed State Fair treats, snow cones, cotton candy, a pet parade, photo 'booth', and carnival games.



## New Employees

- Amber Lockett – NA2
- Gabrielle McNeal – NA2
- Jasmine Atkins – NA2
- Ta-Tonna Greenlee – NA2
- Yaw Agyei – NC2
- Jennifer Boyd – NA2
- Jovondi Brown – NA2
- Charise Brunson – NA2
- Rena Paynes – NA2
- Corinna Evans – NA2
- Angelia Yancey – NA2
- Dean Jacobsen – Laundry
- Rachel Schlender – LPN
- Christie Kokesh – LPN
- Gladys Roman-Rosado – LPN
- Keith Foster – LPN
- Kay Piwoni – NC2
- Melinda Matusewic – LPN
- Debra Bauer – NA2
- Mary Eckert – NA2
- Simone Walker – NA2
- Sonja Gilbertson – NA2
- Sheena Mesa – NC2
- Flower Lewis – Nursing Supervisor
- Sheeba Kuttungal – Nursing Supervisor
- Wyatt Gratton - Custodian

# THE VETERAN VOICE

WISCONSIN VETERANS HOME AT UNION GROVE



## Mask Donations

Thank you so much for all your homemade mask donations. The Members are truly grateful and love the variety of designs created. Due to much use, broken straps, and Members misplacing them, we need more homemade cloth masks.

If you are interested in providing these items, please drop them off at our security entrance on Pine Street. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and time provided to our Members.

## Need Employee Assistance?

Human Resources wants to remind staff though we cannot stop the global pandemic, we can change how we react to it. The State of Wisconsin has an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) FEI, which is available to assist our employees and their families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As one of the oldest and most successful social enterprises in the United States, FEI has innovated workforce resilience for 40 years. Many services are free. By using EAP's services and other wellness programs offered, our employees can deal with stress in a healthier way and achieve better health.

The EAP & Work-Life Services offers the latest news and information on a wide range of issues including mental health, personal development, parenting, relationships, stress, substance abuse, nutrition and much more. Other features such as searchable childcare and elder care databases, daily and monthly featured topics, book reviews, videos and quizzes are available. Additionally, the EAP offers tips and strategies to assist our employees and their families manage the pandemic's ongoing challenges, which even includes in-the-moment support counseling for mental health.

Our employees can access EAP by calling 1-866-274-4723, or by visiting the website at [www.feieap.com](http://www.feieap.com).

## Welcome New Members

Warren Wollmer - Army

Julia Leistikow – Air Force

## Member Birthdays

Raymond Fox – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9/3

David Knabel – 1<sup>st</sup> – 9/4

Steven Maritch – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9/8

Leonard Lewins – GH – 9/10

Edwin Purvis – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9/12

David Reneau – GH – 9/12

Joy Kras – GH – 9/13

Christine Brace – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9/13

Eugene Barrette – 1<sup>st</sup> – 9/17

Francis Potter – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9/17

Richard Drumel – 1<sup>st</sup> – 9/19

Thomas West – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9/19

Roland Gill – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9/21

Through these difficult times, the Activities Department is working to make sure Members are having fun and your help is always appreciated. Please consider donating. For a complete list of items visit: [www.WisVets.com](http://www.WisVets.com)

# THE VETERAN VOICE

WISCONSIN VETERANS HOME AT UNION GROVE



## Message from the Secretary

Mary M. Kolar

For five long months, we successfully beat the odds – through the diligence and steadfast effort of our Members and staff, we were able to keep COVID-19 out of our Wisconsin Veterans Homes. Our adherence to our infection control procedures kept us in a very good place for a long time. However, as you are likely aware, over the past few weeks we have reported that both Members and staff at Union Grove have tested positive for the virus. Now our mission changes and we will work even harder to prevent the virus' spread.

Our staff on the Union Grove campus is amazing. They continue to work so hard to care for the Veterans and others who live with us in a very challenging and stressful situation. Since some of our staff have also been affected by the virus, and therefore will need to quarantine away from campus, we have arranged for reinforcements to help. The new faces our Members may see on campus are additional staff from the federal VA. In addition, the Wisconsin National Guard will be assisting as we continue to conduct ongoing testing on Members and staff.

We are doing our best to provide everyone information as quickly as possible. In addition to notifications sent to our Members' primary contacts, we also post all updates/notifications on our website – [www.WisVetsHomesCOVID.com](http://www.WisVetsHomesCOVID.com). If you'd like to share these notifications with family members or look back on a previous update, they are all there.

As we all continue to fight this virus, I ask you, please, for those who have served our country and those who support them, stay home whenever you can, wear a mask when you're out, stay at least six feet away from other people, and wash your hands frequently. We will get through this together.

## Connecting During COVID

As Union Grove continues to adapt to all the changes due to COVID-19 there is still one item that is paramount to staff. How can Members stay connected with their loved ones though they may not be physically able to visit?

In May of this year activities staff began opening new ways of communication for Members by connecting them with their family through technology such as Zoom, Skype, or FaceTime. This has also provided an educational experience for Members and staff. Family assistance is always helpful in setting up communications with your loved one, during this time.

Our activity staff is happy to assist with your family connections. We do however ask that you call to schedule a time for this assistance as we are also very busy in continuing to provide group programming for all our Members.

At few extra pieces of information.....

- We have ability to FaceTime Apple to Apple device (IPAD, iPhone).
- We can Zoom ***only if family members initiate the meeting.***
- We have recently purchased several iPads, so there is not a need for families to do so to maintain communication.