

THE VETERAN VOICE

WISCONSIN VETERANS HOME AT UNION GROVE

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Veterans Home - Union Grove



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Moving Out? See These Local Donation Resources

Having sentimental items, furniture, and other possessions in their living space contributes to providing a sense of home for our members residing here at Union Grove, and it is something we recommend! However, as anyone who has undergone a move knows, it can be surprising how easily and quickly belongings, including the necessities, accumulate.

Often when a member leaves our Home, families ask about donating items to our facility. While we appreciate these generous offers, at this time our needs are met and staff are focusing all our efforts on best caring for members, rather than coordinating and storing donated items. We encourage families to donate any unwanted items to a charity. Contact some local organization to see if they can take any unwanted items:

- Veterans Housing and Recovery Program – 262.878.9151
- Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative – 414.257.4111
- The Salvation Army – 262.637.2132
- Goodwill – 262.554.8522

In the past, when a member left Union Grove, family was invited to help with moving out. However, due to COVID-19 visitor limitations, our staff will coordinate with families and will assist with packing personal items. In this case, we ask that all donation decisions be made once you receive packed boxes from us.

New Employee Update

The Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove has recently hired fourteen nursing assistants, one nursing clinician, and one member of the laundry team. We also welcome new Commandant Erin Johnston to the Union Grove team.

Wish List

Gift cards to NASCO Senior Activities catalog, Walmart, Hobby Lobby, or Amazon.

Monetary funds for activities supplies and special events.

Prizes or Supplies for Activities:

- Fun size candy – no nuts
- Bags of Individually wrapped candy
- Ice cream & toppings for ice cream social

Pub supplies:

- Regular or diet soda
- Pretzels
- Cheese balls

General Supplies

- Kleenex – no lotion or aloe
- Young Living Essential Oils – theives, lemon, orange, peppermint, purification
- Pudding and Jello cups

For a complete list of items visit:

www.WisVets.com

Going Digital

The Veteran Voice is going fully digital in 2021. If you are interested in still receiving this newsletter, submit your email at www.WisVetsEmail.com to be added to the email list.

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Meet Our New Commandant

Erin Johnston recently joined the Union Grove staff in late August, as the campus leader. Erin comes to UG with a long history in long term care. Erin's stepmother worked in long term care as an activities director and took Erin to work with her on many, many occasions. Erin enjoyed her interactions with those seniors so much, she decided to pursue a career in long term care administration.

Erin lives in Thiensville with her significant other and 4-year-old son, Thaddeus. They enjoy spending as much time outdoors as they can fishing, hiking, and biking. Erin's father served in Vietnam as a medic in the Army, her grandfather served in WWII as a machinist in the South Pacific and most recently, my stepbrother served as a Marine serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Erin is a lifelong member of the Auxiliary currently of Unit 355 in Grafton.

Member Birthdays

Quran Qaasim – 3rd – 10/1

Charles Macaluso – 2nd – 10/2

Francisco Contreras – 3rd – 10/4

Andrew Chirigotis – 3rd – 10/8

Frank Kloss – 3rd – 10/8

Wallace Howie – 3rd – 10/10

Walter Rapiej – 2nd – 10/110

William Kloss – GH – 10/10

Julia Leistikow – GH – 10/12

Joseph Fortino – GH – 10/15

Mark Farrar – 3rd – 10/25

Georgeanne Lockwood – 2nd – 10/28

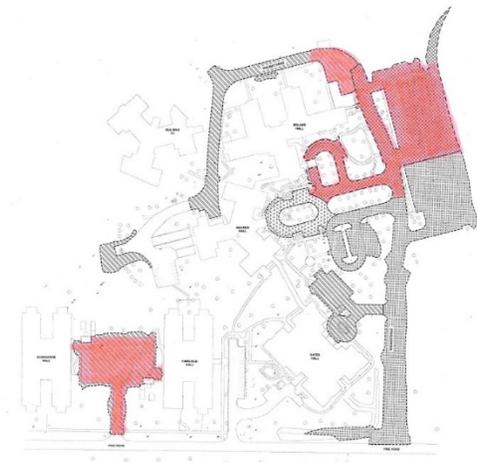
Calvin Johansen – 1st – 10/30

Activities Update

Due to the ever-changing recommendations regarding the coronavirus, we are planning week to week leisure opportunities for our members. Leisure programming will remain on the units in small groups, and we will also provide one-to-one visits when needed or requested.

All large events through 2020 have been cancelled. Activity staff are making plans to ensure Veterans Day and the holiday season are special for our members.

Parking Construction Update



The Union Grove campus has currently begun Phase 2 of parking lot construction. As we move forward with planning how we will conduct safe visits with members, please enter at the Mauer Hall entrance. The Boland Hall entrance is currently closed, and the north portion of the east Boland Hall parking lot is closed.

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Message from the Secretary

Mary M. Kolar

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our members and families for the understanding and support you've provided over the past few months as we've battled COVID-19 at the Veterans Home at Union Grove. I am proud of the way our staff rose to this challenge and the way all of us in the veterans community have worked together to keep our friends and loved ones at Union Grove safe. Please know that we will continue to maintain our rigorous safety standards to keep everyone well.

On another note -- can you feel the weather changing? We have had a break from the heat these past couple of weeks and I enjoyed a few days of brisker air. Wisconsin is a beautiful place to live in the fall, and I know you must also be enjoying the stunning colors of the changing leaves at Union Grove.

September is a busy month, as we marked 75 years since the end of WWII. To those of you who are WWII Veterans, we honor you. This month, we also commemorated the 19th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, remembering the lives lost and the courage and strength of first responders, and paying tribute to the sacrifices made by the men and women who continued to defend our freedom by serving in the military.

Finally, we look forward to Veterans Day on Wednesday, Nov. 11. Like many important observances in 2020, Veterans Day will be different this year. While WDVA typically hosts in-person ceremonies and events, this year we are planning for a statewide virtual ceremony to honor the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have served our country. We look forward to sharing the details soon! As always, we will work to make Veterans Day a special day for those who live with us.

COVID-19 Update

We are pleased to announce that our most recent round of testing of the members and staff of Union Grove Veterans Home for coronavirus has resulted in all tests coming back negative.

While this is great news, we must never let our guard down. As we all witnessed last month, this virus is very contagious. I am so proud of the way our staff rose to this challenge. Now, we must remain vigilant and continue the good practices that helped us to prevent it from coming into our Home for many months and recover when it did, particularly since coronavirus cases in the state and nation continue to rise.

With this good news, we will begin reevaluating our safe visits plan and allow new admissions. However, to make these things happen, we need your help. We can only do these things if we do not have COVID-19 in our Home. The way you can help is by continuing good, safe practices. Please, stay at home as much as possible and avoid gatherings. If you must go out, remember to practice social distancing, mask wearing, and frequent hand washing.

As a reminder, these coronavirus updates are available on the WDVA website at