



Contacts

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First Formation

Calendar of Events for September/October 2019

Aug 31, Sept 1-2: Viet Vets 7, food stand at Oakwood Fruit Farms

Sept. 2: Viola Legion 447 Labor Day parade, Line up 2PM

September 5-8: Legion Post 13 RC Food Stand open at Richland County Fair.

Sept 2: RC Legion 13 Aux regular meeting: 6:30 Legion hall.

Sept 5: 40 et 8 regular meeting, 6:30 meal, meeting follows

Sept 9: LR legion 383 vet memorial meeting, village office 6:30 pm.

Sept 9: VFW 2267 Aux, regular meeting. 6PM Legion hall.

Sept 10: Viola Legion 447 regular meeting, 1PM Aux, 7PM Legion, Legion hall.

Sept 10:VFW 2267 regular meeting, RC Legion hall, 7pm.

Sept 12: Viet Vets 7 regular meeting, RC Legion hall, 7PM

Sept 13: Women's Relief Corp regular meeting, Brewer library 11AM

Sept 13-14: DAV 32, brat fry at Greeley's signs, RC

Sept 14: Cazenovia Legion 491 carrying colors in Badger Honor Flight Walk/Run, 8AM

Sept 14: LR Legion 383, First annual brat stand at LR memorial site, 9am-3pm.

Sept 17: LR Legion 383 regular meeting, Library 7PM

Sept 17:Caz Legion 491 Aux regular meeting

Sept 18: LR Legion 383 Aux regular meeting, Masonic hall, 5pm.

Sept 19: VFW 2267 Vets Roundtable, Pine Valley 1:30 PM

Sept 19: RC Legion 13 regular meeting, supper 6:30, meeting 7:30

Sept 20-21: Viet Vets 7, brat fry in Viroqua at Archie's

Sept 21: Cazenovia 491 Legion meeting: Sons at 5:30, Legion 7PM

Sometime in October: MOPH Flagpole dedication

Oct 1: County Legion regular meeting, 7PM, Lone Rock library.

Oct 3: 40 et 8 regular meeting, 6:30 meal, meeting follows

Oct 4-6: Viet Vets 7, Food stand at Oakwood Fruit Farms

Oct 5: Viet Vets 7, Colorama parade

Oct 7: RC Legion 13 Aux regular meeting:

6:30 Legion hall.

Oct 8: Viola Legion 447 regular meeting, 1PM Aux, 7PM Legion, Legion hall

Oct 8: VFW 2267 regular meeting, RC Legion hall, 7pm.

Oct 10: Viet Vets 7 regular meeting, RC legion hall, 7PM

Oct 11: Womens Relief Corp regular meeting, Brewer library 11AM

Oct 11-13: LR Legion 383 brat stand at Oak Ridge Orchard, all funding to legion.

Oct 13: Caz Legion 491 Card party, legion hall. 1:30 PM

Oct 14: LR Legion 383 vet memorial meeting, village office, 6:30 pm

Oct 14: VFW 2267 Aux, regular meeting. 6PM Legion hall.

Oct 15: LR Legion 383 regular meeting, Library 7pm.

Oct 16: LR Legion 383 Aux regular meeting, Library 7PM

Oct 17: VFW 2267, Vets Roundtable, POine Valley, 1:30 PM

Oct 17: RC Legion 13 regular meeting, 6:30 supper, meeting 7:30

Oct 19: Caz Legion 491

From HQ

70K Vets Still Have Chance to Gain Retiree Status

About 70,000 disabled veterans who served on active duty after 9/11, and were medically discharged with disability ratings of 20 percent or less, still have a shot to gain "retiree" status, with base shopping privileges and lifetime eligibility to [TRICARE](#) for them and families.

The catch is they have to know about this opportunity and to apply.

Applying is a breeze. Notifying eligible veterans they can apply is the greater challenge. Efforts to reach many of them by mail have been delayed.

To win an upgrade in disability rating, qualified vets don't have to appear before one more medical or physical disability evaluation board. They only have to fill out a short application form, send it to a panel called the Physical Disability Board of Review (PDBR), and wait until the PDBR reviews all relevant health records and decides whether the veteran's parent service did indeed low-ball their original disability rating.

For many years, the Army led the services in tweaking policy and using the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities in ways that kept ill and injured soldiers from a combined rating of 30 percent or higher to qualify for disability retirement. It was less costly to rate a single unfitting condition, ignore others and separate rather than retire soldiers, by awarding ratings of 0, 10 or 20 percent.

In 2008, Congress ordered the services to clean up their disability evaluation systems and end such practices. It also directed the Department of Defense to establish the PDBR with authority to reexamine medical files and, if appropriate, recommend that ratings of vets medically separated from Sept. 11, 2001, to Dec. 31, 2009, be raised to 30 percent or higher.

PDBR applicants don't need to worry about a ratings downgrade. That's prohibited.

The services decide whether to accept PDBR recommendations to upgrade a rating to at least 30 percent and allow "retiree" status. Such a re-characterization triggers eligibility for retroactive retired pay back to date of discharge (minus separation pay previously awarded) and full military retiree benefits. TRICARE eligibility also in retroactive so a newly minted retiree able to document out-of-

Events (Ctd. From page 1)

regular meeting, Sons at 5:30, Legion and Aux 7PM

Oct 21, Viola Legion 447, Chicken Q at horse and colt show, 10AM until food is gone

Oct 26: LR Legion 383 will serve hot dogs and brats to Boy Scouts on a fishing outing. Times TBA.

Oct 31: DAV 32 Regular meeting, RC legion hall, meal 5:30 followed by meeting.

October 31: Deadline Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy submissions.

Nov 3: Daylight Savings time Ends

Nov 10: Cazenovia Legion 491 Card party, legion hall, 1:30 PM

Nov 11: Cazenovia Legion 491 soup supper, legion hall.

Nov 11: Viola Legion 447 Veterans Day program, 10:50 Kickapoo High School, speaker Police Chief Tim Gratz., 12:30 Luncheon at Legion hall.

From HQ (Ctd from page 2)

pocket medical costs since time of discharge can file a claim with TRICARE.

Most veterans who have won "retiree" status through PDBR review are Army veterans. The top three medical conditions given revised ratings were post-traumatic stress, back ailments and arthritis.

To date, Air Force and Coast Guard authorities have approved every PDBR recommendation. Army has accepted 98 percent of them. The Navy Department, for sailors and Marine applicants, has approved 94 percent.

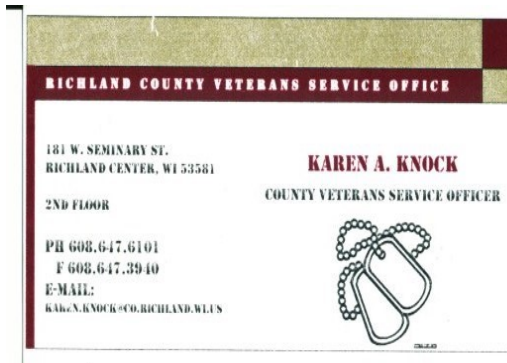
More on the PDBR and how to apply is online at: <https://health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Conditions-and-Treatments/Physical-Disability/Disability-Evaluation/Physical-Disability-Board-of-Review>

Respectfully,

Karen Knock, CVSO

Don't forget to stop in and check in with us at least once a year to find out about new and ever changing benefits that might be available to you and yours

-Karen



Keys to Progress® Program

Giving Back to Those Who Gave So Much

In 2019, Progressive Insurance will celebrate seven years of honoring veterans through the Keys to Progress® program.

Every November, we host this one-day vehicle giveaway event for veterans at various Progressive offices and authorized vehicle repair facility locations across the United States. We've donated more than 600 vehicles to veterans and veteran organizations since 2013.

We see the need in our communities to provide transportation support to military men and women facing tough circumstances in life—from difficult personal and family health needs to excessive rent burdens, unemployment, and homelessness. One of Progressive's Core Values is the Golden Rule. The Keys to Progress program is one way we put that into action and give back to people who've given so much for our country.

To learn how to apply, go to this website: <https://www.progressive.com/socialresponsibility/keys-to-progress.html>

Veterans receive free concert, sporting event, family activity tickets

VetTix provides free tickets to Veterans and service members with the aim of reducing stress, strengthening family bonds, building life-long memories and encouraging connections with local communities. How it works: First, VetTix secures tickets to sporting events, concerts, performing arts, educational and family activities. Then, Veterans sign up online, where their service is verified. Finally, members, or 'VetTixers,' request tickets to events that interest them, pay a small delivery fee and receive their free tickets.

"When our Veterans go to an event for free, we want them to enjoy, relax, spend precious time with their families, and feel a part of American life," said VetTix CEO Mike Focareto. "That's what we are committed to creating every day. And we're excited to partner with VA to bring positive experiences to more, not only Veterans, but their families as well."

VetTix is a national non-profit, non-governmental 501c(3) tax-exempt organization reporting a 95% charity rate, meaning 95 cents out of every dollar they receive goes back to the Veterans and military members they serve. They recently announced surpassing the 7 million tickets given mark. Visit them at www.vettix.org for more information.

Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Writing Competition

VFW National has released the requirements for 2019 entries, the deadline for entries to be received to the post is October 31, 2019. Winners to be announced early in 2020. The theme for **both** the Voice of Democracy and the Patriots Pen are the same. Guidelines and requirements can be found at: <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>.

PATRIOT'S PEN (GRADES 6-8): Each year more than 132,000 students in grades 6-8 enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest. The national first-place winner wins \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. The first-place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$55,000, with each first-place state winner receiving a minimum of \$500 at the national level. The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. Want to apply? [Read the rules and eligibility requirements](#), then download and [complete the 2019-20 entry form](#). All student entries must be submitted to a sponsoring [local VFW Post](#) by midnight, Oct. 31.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY (GRADES 9-12): Established in 1947, our Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 40,000 9-12 grade students from across the country enter to win their share of \$2.1 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program. The national first-place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. A complete list of other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$16,000, and the first-place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins a minimum scholarship of \$1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. Want to apply? Read [the rules and eligibility requirements](#), then download and [complete the 2019-20 entry form](#). All student entries must be submitted to a sponsoring [local VFW Post](#) by midnight, Oct. 31.

THE THEME FOR BOTH CONTESTS IS: WHAT MAKES AMERICA GREAT.

Marge Freeman, Commander, VFW Post 2267, 608-647-4884

Lone Rock Memorial Update

Lone Rock Legion 383 still has memorial bricks for their war memorial walkway. Prices start at \$40 and go to \$100. See Royal Bank in Lone Rock for more information.

The parking lot for the memorial has been completed with bumpers and signage. A stone wall has been installed behind the flags as well as some edging and stone around parts of the memorial so mowing will be easier. More work is planned, such as cementing in the lights and finishing the sign at the front of the memorial. They will also either reseal or retuck the rock around the sign.

