

Faith Smith
Post 484 Commander

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JANUARY 2026
NEWSLETTER



AMERICAN LEGION

Adjutant, David Fisher
1st Vice Commander, Todd Anhalt
2nd Vice Commander, Gary Anthony
Finance Officer, Bob Bordon
Service Officer, Vacant
Chaplain, Open
Sgt. at Arms, Ray Featherstone
Historian, open
Judge Advocate, Bill Fayling

AUXILIARY

President, Chris Reed
1st Vice President, Robin Robbins
2nd Vice, Donna Adamski
Secretary, Sherry Van Bruggen
Treasurer, Michele Gerlofs
Chaplain, Rene Wilson
Sgt. at Arms, Kathy Uecker
Historian, Mary Olis-Goebel
Executive Committee,
Laurie Wyman, Bonnie Bogue, Judy
Ruser

SAL

Commander, Steve Kelly
Adjutant, Kirk Dewey
1st Vice Commander, Jeff Shumaker
2nd Vice Commander, Tom Carter
Finance Officer, Ted Rusher
Sgt. at Arms, Randy Robbins
Chaplain, Herm Clear
Historian, Gene Newell

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Greetings 484 family, welcome to 2026. I know many of us are setting resolutions to better ourselves. Have you considered setting a goal to help others? The American Legion was founded on the principle of veterans helping veterans. The American Legion has advocated for the needs of veterans, active service members, and their families since 1919. Simmonds -Williams Post 484 should never be "just a bar" we should be a group of members willing to step up at any time to help. As we enter 2026, I challenge you to make one goal to help give back and help your fellow veteran, their family and our community.

AMERICAN LEGION POST

Greetings Post 484 Legionnaires.

Thank you to the 110 members that have renewed for 2026 and to the 40 of you that did not renew for this year, you still have time with your membership and support.

In 2025, the American Legion provided programs and services to strengthen America and its Veterans. The American Legion has secured \$23 Billion federal benefits through American Legion Service officers and appeals reps. Awarded \$832,592 in grants to children serving organizations. Sent 136,812 messages to Congress to address legislative priorities facing veterans. Trained over 20,000 people to detect and prevent veteran suicide through The American Legion Be the One mission. Awarded \$6.8 Million in scholarships through the American Legion National Oratorical contest competitors. American Legion Legacy Scholarships awarded \$1.7 Million to 559 children of military personnel who lost their lives or became 50% or more disabled while on active duty since 9/11.

In 2026, the American Legion will continue fighting to provide Veterans and their families with programs, services and actions that have proven to be vital, timeless and life-changing.

Reminder Monthly post meetings are the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30pm. We are still in need of a service officer and someone who is computer savvy to assist.

AUXILIARY

Greetings everyone! Hope you are surviving the crazy winter weather we've been experiencing this season. I also hope you and your families had a wonderful Christmas holiday and are preparing for the New Year.

The Auxiliary sponsored a family this year for Christmas. Stacy Noteboom was kind enough to do all the shopping and we delivered the gifts to the family on December 22nd. They were very grateful to our Auxiliary. In addition, Robin Robbins spearheaded a Diaper Drive to benefit the Delton's Women's Center. The response has been great and the deadline to drop off your donated diapers to the Post is January 31st.

December's Steak Fry was a very busy one and we served a total of 156! We had a large group from the Hickory Corners Fire Department that participated again this year, which helped boost our numbers. The next Steak Fry is Saturday, January 17 and we hope you can join us.

Our Auxiliary supported the Battle Creek VA Christmas Gift Shop again this year and we filled gift bags for 322 Veterans! This included those Veterans residing at the VA, along with six other Veteran organizations in the Battle Creek area. It was a fun day! Our next event at the VA will be the New Year's Day Pizza Party. This is an event the Veterans always look forward to.

Last, but not least, the Auxiliary is preparing to start a Queen of Hearts game at our Post. The paperwork has been submitted to the State, but it does take some time for it to be processed. We hope to kick this off after the first of the year. Stay tuned for more updates.

The next ladies Auxiliary will be Monday, January 5. We would love to see more Auxiliary members attend this meeting and we hope you will join us. Wishing you all a Happy New Year!
Chris Reed, President - American Legion
Auxiliary

SAL

Our December breakfast was with Santa Claus. We had a lot of fun with everyone and Santa. There were a lot of gifts for the kids and entertainment for the adults.

January breakfast: Sunday 11th, 8:00 am - 11:00 am.

February breakfast: Sunday 8th, 8:00 am - 11:00 am.

March breakfast: Sunday 8th, 8:00 am - 11:00 am.

April breakfast: Sunday 12th, 8:00 am - 11:00 am.

May breakfast: Sunday 10th, 8:00 am - 11:00 am.

Donation Suggestion:

Breakfast is served buffet style. AYCE

Adults \$12.00

Children (under 12) \$6.00

We sponsored a family for Christmas with Randy Robbins leading the way. The family was very excited and surprised.

Our next monthly meeting is January 20th, 6:00 - 7:30 pm. It would be great to see you all come and see what the Sons of the American Legion are all about.

The Organizations goals include.

1. Supporting veterans and their families
2. Promoting patriotism and American Values
3. Participating in community service and charitable activities
4. Advocating for legislation benefiting veterans

Did you know the Sons manage the food bank at the Legion for people who are going through tough times. There are no questions asked, no judgement.

For me, it is an honor to be a member of the Sons of the American Legion. We live in the best Country in the world because of the **US Military Men and Woman giving their all** (and all to often their life) to defend our great country known as the United States of America.

Thank you for service.

Veterans Club 484 Hours: Tuesday - Saturday opening at 4:00 PM

EVENTS

Happy New Year!

2025 was quite a busy year here at the American Legion Post 484 and 2026 looks like more of the same!

We will be hosting Euchre Tournaments the 2nd Saturday of the month in January, March & April. There will be a squirrel hunt out of the post on Saturday, Jan 31st. Watch for more details.

February 9th, the Gull Lake Grad Bash Committee will be hosting a Purse Bingo.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 28th at Cadwallader Park. We will need eggs, candy and help to not only stuff all the eggs, but to hide them the day of.

We will also be having a park clean up day on Saturday, Mar 21st, to get ready for this fun, family-friendly event.

We have lots of other events in the works. If you have any ideas, or would like to help, please let me know!!