FOUR FORTY NINER

Cudworth - Stenz - Griesell - Smith American Legion Post 449
Brookfield, Wisconsin
Charter Received April 1946

Serving God, Veterans & Country

Four Forty Niner **is the Official Newsletter of**
Cudworth-Stenz-Griesell-Smith Post 449
3245 N. 124th Street
Brookfield, WI 53005
262-330-0332
www.Post449.com

OFFICERS DIRECTORY

Commander	**Alex Kolander**	**414-322-8702**
Asst. to Commander	**Dave Landrith**	**414-232-4942**
1st Vice Commander	**Roger Kiesner**	**414-350-0402**
2nd Vice Commander	**Alex Kolander**	**414-322-8702**
Assist. 2nd Vice Com.	**Lisa Nelson**	**262-374-3033**
Adjutant	**Bill Roche**	**414-477-9378**
Finance Officer	**Alex Kolander**	**414-322-8702**
Chaplain	**Patricia Kingsbery**	**414-476-9485**
Judge Advocate	**Tom Rhoda**	**414-510-9901**
Service Officer	**Richard Strehlow**	**262-641-0977**
Sgt At Arms	**David Vajgrt**	**262-689-0119**
Public Relations	**Steve Fraenzl**	**262-719-5660**
CPA	**Tina Schultz**	**920-545-4566**
Bar Manager	**Ken Checkai**	**414-426-8505**
Asst. Bar Manager	**Tiffany Rossetti**	**414-793-9867**
Lounge Manager	**Tiffany Rossetti**	**414-793-9867**
Catering by Bunzel's		**414-873-7960**
Children & Youth	**Open**	

NEWSLETTER CIRCULATION VOLUNTEERS
Richard Strehlow, Bill Roche, Joleen Gordon, Kitty Larkin, Beth Weare, Andy Bednarski, Elizabeth Wilkinson, Larry Kaplan, Mike Smith, Lylette Smith.

Editor – Steve Fraenzl
sfraenzl@gmail.com

Database Coordinator – Richard Strehlow
americanlegionpost449mail@yahoo.com

Cudworth-Stenz-Griesell-Smith AL Post 449

Website/Facebook/OPTI Coordination – Dawn Mariscal
262-442-4952

Facebook Auxiliary Coordinator – Jennie Riemer
shakinjmr@yahoo.com

Postal Distribution Coordinator – Richard Strehlow

Circulation Coordinator – Lylette Smith
lylettesmith03@yahoo.com

Please email articles to Steve Fraenzl at sfraenzl@gmail.com.
Hard copy may be brought to the Legion office and given to a bartender. Change of address/phone number/email address should go to:
Legionnaires ► Post Address, Attn: Bill Roche, Adjutant
Auxiliary ► Post Address, Attn: KITTY LARKIN, Membership S.A.L. ► Post Address, Attn: LEIGH RAINER

Commander's Message

By Alex Kolander, 414-322-8702

GREETINGS FELLOW LEGIONNAIRES:

Spring has sprung and we could not be happier after that goofy Blizzard. I'm sure we are all looking forward to planting flowers and our gardens once again.

Prices have surged so much that we recently had to adjust our bar pricing accordingly. Please understand the economics of running a business.

The kitchen will again become available for rent/lease as of 1 May 2006. In order for us to survive the kitchen must be rented out or someone from within must run it and make a profit. Any ideas please come forward with them as soon as possible.

We are hoping some members step up and help serving on the board in the positions of 2nd Vice Commander, 3rd Vice Commander, Finance Officer, Children and Youth, and help the Service Officer with the database.

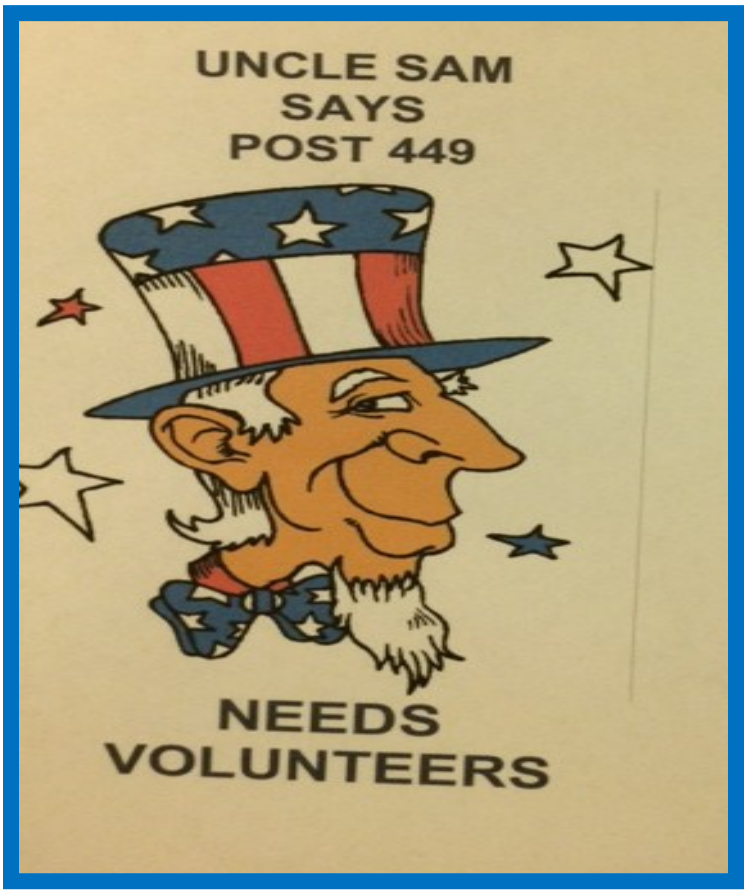
The owner of the building recently installed a new HVAC system for the hall, so now heating and cooling work perfectly. Our side was replaced 5 years ago.

Keep alert for the large event coming to our post on Memorial Day. Three bands, food and much more. Pray for good weather!

AND GOD SAID:

"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you to persecute you". (Matthew 5:44)

"Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay,' says the lord. (Romans 12:19)



Service Officer's Message…

By Richard Strehlow 262-641-0977

My Message: I am still seeking anyone that would be interested in learning to become a back-up Post Database Coordinator and Newsletter Distribution Coordinator. These two roles go hand in hand, and I will gladly meet with you to discuss the details of these positions. If you may be interested in helping, please call my home number (listed above) or email me at shot2guns@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Also, if you have an e-mail address, please update your contact information by sending us your e-mail address to americanlegionpost449mail@yahoo.com The Postal service charges us an additional $0.97 for each hard copy of our Newsletter that is mailed and returned back due to an incorrect street address. This is on top of the cost of $0.76 for printing and mailing costs for each Newsletter.

Last Bugle (Post Members) None

Last Bugle (Non-Post Members)

John Albert Vietnam	Michael Mantancsi Vietnam
Ronald Smith Korea	Eugene Zyla Korea
Thomas Trecker Vietnam	Anthony Spinato Peace Time
Fredrick Weber Vietnam	

May they rest in peace

Post Info: American Legion Post 449 is committed to serving those who have served by helping veterans and their dependents navigate the complex process of applying for VA benefits. With a strong understanding of available programs and eligibility requirements, American Legion Post 449 works to ensure that no veteran or family member misses out on benefits they have earned through service and sacrifice. Through guidance, advocacy, and community support, American Legion Post 449 strives to make the application process clearer, more accessible, and less stressful, reinforcing its mission to honor and support veterans at every stage of life.

Please remember to donate to our Annual Giving Fund (if you have not already done so) and find it in your heart to contribute what you can. This is our largest fund-raising

event of the year, and we count on your continued support to help keep our Post alive. Our operating expenses are steadily increasing, and we are implementing all possible measures to manage them effectively. We kindly request your support in this effort. Please remember that you are not just a Post 449 Legion Member but also a part owner of our great Post.

Honor Guard News: The Honor Guard is still in need of new members. Please consider joining whether you are an ALA, SAL or a Legion member. We have plenty of uniforms that can be issued. Please contact me at the number listed above or any Honor Guard member. We would like to thank the Weber Family for donations to our Post for the services rendered by our Honor Guard.

Post Contact Info:

Post E-Mail is americanlegionpost449mail@yahoo.com to contact us.

Post Website is **POST449.com** which lists all current Post information and Newsletters.

Post Facebook is **American Legion Post 449**

*****Please Note that if you have a new email address or have moved, please send us your new contact information including phone number and e-mail to americanlegionpost449mail@yahoo.com or mail it to American Legion Post 449, 3245 N 124th St. , Brookfield, WI 53005 for you to continue to receive our Newsletter and postal mailings.*****

VA NEWS & INFORMATION:

Did you know veterans have higher rates of leukemia than the general population? This is largely due to increased exposure to carcinogenic chemicals, radiation, and other hazardous conditions during military service. One of the most well-documented causes is exposure to herbicides such as Agent Orange during the Vietnam War, which has been strongly linked to several blood cancers, including chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). Veterans who served in the Gulf War may have been exposed to oil well fire smoke, depleted uranium, pesticides, and other toxic substances that can damage bone marrow and alter DNA. In more recent conflicts such as the Iraq War and the War in Afghanistan, some service members were exposed to burn pits that released carcinogenic compounds into the air. Additionally, certain military roles involve exposure to ionizing radiation, industrial solvents like benzene, and jet fuels, all of which are known risk factors for leukemia because they can disrupt normal blood cell production in the bone marrow. While not every veteran develops leukemia, the cumulative effect of these environmental and occupational hazards helps explain why incidence rates are higher in some veteran populations compared to civilians.

A new rule from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) taking effect February 2026 is intended to speed up and simplify financial compensation for surviving spouses and dependent children after a veteran's death. Previously, survivors who might qualify for two different types of support — Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and Survivors Pension — often had to wait for separate adjudications of each benefit before receiving their money.

Did you know this common disability is often overlooked, but you may be able to get VA disability if you have scarring or you're disfigured on your face, head, and neck? Although, any other related conditions as a result of the scarring, such as the inability to eat normally, will be rated separately. Keep in mind, the face, head, and neck are considered one area for the purpose of rating and will not have separate ratings, even if the scarring is worse in one area.

Did you know as with most disabilities, the VA rating for sleep apnea depends on your particular situation? The military provides an extremely physically demanding environment that can lead to many conditions associated with sleep apnea, ranging from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) to various injuries that limit mobility, plus exposure to a wide variety of dust and fumes. Some indications are that one in five U.S. veterans has sleep apnea, and in one study, veterans of combat in Iraq were more than 45% more likely than non-combatants to develop sleep apnea.

Did you know the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) can link your injury or illness to VA disability compensation three different ways? For instance, if you became ill or injured while serving in the military and can link this condition to your current illness or injury (called an in-service disability claim), or you had an illness or injury prior to joining the military and serving in the military made it worse (called a reservice disability claim), or you have a disability related to your active duty service that didn't manifest itself until after you left the military (called a post-service disability claim), you may be eligible for VA disability compensation?

Did you know hearing loss is one of the most prevalent service-connected disabilities? Annually about 1 million veterans receive disability compensation for hearing loss and tinnitus.

Veterans could be eligible for free or low-cost hearing health care (such as hearing aids) through VA Health Benefits. Also if your hearing loss is considered due to military service and is severe enough you could be granted monthly tax free payments from the VA.

Did you know you can use the camera on your phone, computer, or tablet, and connect to the VA Video Connect App? Using VA Video Connect App will give you direct, real-time access to your health care team. If you're a veteran who receives VA health care, has an internet connection, and an email account, you may be able to use this app for your next appointment.

How does VA Video Connect work?
When your VA care team schedules an appointment using VA Video Connect, you will receive an email with a link to join a virtual medical room. The email will include resources to help you get ready to use VA Video Connect. At the time of your appointment, click on the link, enter your name, and begin the session with your doctor or other providers. You can include family members or other caregivers, who can join the VA Video Connect session from anywhere.

Did you know as with most disabilities, the VA rating for sleep apnea depends on your particular situation? The military provides an extremely physically demanding environment that can lead to many conditions associated with sleep apnea, ranging from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) to various injuries that limit mobility, plus exposure to a wide variety of dust and fumes. Some indications are that one in five U.S. veterans has sleep apnea, and in one study, veterans of combat in Iraq were more than 45% more likely than non-combatants to develop sleep apnea.

Did you know a nationwide VA cohort study has shown that androgen deprivation therapy (ADT), a cornerstone of advanced prostate cancer treatment, is associated with increased risks of cardiovascular events, bone fractures, and osteoporosis?
According to VA officials, this underscores the need for comprehensive monitoring of veterans on ADT.

Did You know the VA killed 4970 veterans on paper last year? These are not to physical deaths, but administrative errors in which living veterans were mistakenly recorded as deceased in government systems. When this happens, benefits such as disability compensation, pensions, or health coverage are suspended, and some veterans may face significant hardship while the VA corrects the mistake.

Did you know the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) can assign multiple ratings for knee conditions? Also, knee replacement claims are one of the most important because they can qualify for a temporary 100% rating right after surgery, followed by long-term ratings based on how the knee heals.

Did you know the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) plans to launch an investigation leading to the automated fraud-detection tool to scan more than a million disability benefits questionnaires for evidence of fabrication or other problems that could force a new medical exam and impact compensation for veterans? The VA's new automated tool is expected to launch in fiscal 2026 and is part of a larger push to fortify the benefits system against fraud and abuse, according to the VA.

Did you know veterans who performed the secret, often dangerous work of testing nuclear weapons deserve new recognition and may now call themselves "Atomic Veterans," according to the Defense Department? The department announced the Atomic Veterans Commemorative Service Medal to recognize that "the service and sacrifice of the Atomic Veterans directly contributed to our Nation's continued freedom and prosperity during the period following World War II." Veterans qualify for the medallion-only award who served between July 1945 and October 1992. The dates coincide with those of nuclear testing in the U.S.

Did you know the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Health and Benefits mobile app enables veterans to send secure messages to health care providers, view upcoming appointments, view claims and appeals status, upload documentation, locate VA facilities, download veteran benefits letters to prove veteran status, and more? Veterans can also login using fingerprint or face ID. VA Health and Benefits app is available via the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

Did you know according to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, 13% of the homeless population are veterans? Roughly 40,000 veterans are on the streets in America on any given night, which is actually a considerable improvement over the last decade.
Did you know a new study illustrates that microcurrent therapy is the first to demonstrate that military veterans can successfully self-apply a known stress and pain-modulating therapy in the home setting with meaningful improvements in pain, PTSD symptoms, sleep duration, and quality of life? The findings support the role of microcurrent therapy as a practical, scalable adjunct in addressing some of the most persistent and costly health challenges facing veterans today.

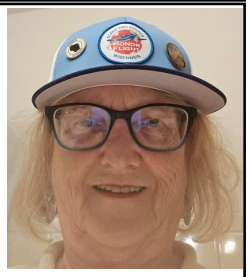
Did you know if you're a veteran who receives VA health care, has an internet connection, and an email account, you may be able to can use VA Video Connect for your next appointment?

Virtual visits are an easy way to share your health history. You and your provider can decide if you need an in-person visit during your virtual visit.

.Remember..... That all gave some, but many gave all

Post 449 Chaplain Message

By Patricia Kingsbery 414-476-9485



Sunday, April 5, is Easter Sunday, the Resurrection of our Lord.

This reminds me of a recent experience this winter while away from home on a much-needed vacation. My daughter was responsible for taking care of many plants. She would come to my house and water them every 2 weeks. They were doing well with regular watering but then she got sick, had a minor car accident and the winter weather hindered her from watering them on a regular basis. When returning home, my shamrock plant was dry, brown, wilted and lifeless. My other plants were bursting with life. Due to lack of water, the plant was near death, and I didn't think I could revive it.

I gave it water and fertilizer and "resurrected" it.

The Creator uses His creation to teach his created. If you are feeling wilted and lifeless, the rain of God's Word will restore you. Jesus is the vine that sustains, refreshes, revives, and reunites you to Himself. Jesus was lifeless on Holy Saturday. On Easter, we are showered with his blessings, for Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in his name. John 20:31.

Oh, day of joy, our hearts are thrilled; with Easter praise, our mouths are filled. You overcame my shame and strife; you chose this day to win my life. Though your eyes did shut and close, as you promised, You arose! I thank thee, O my risen king, that life eternal you did bring! No stone, no seal, no plan could keep from gloriously rising from the dead! Amen.

Happy Easter! Happy Spring!

A Huge thank you to Sheila Hinek for donating this beautiful silverware for Boland Hall, Union Grove Veterans Home. Thank you!

HELP IS NEEDED. ALL MEMBERS OF POST #449

The Post Sheepshead Players need people to join our group. We play at the restaurant O'Sullivan Public House at 12525 W. North av. At this time we play on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. The time is 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. If interested in joining us please call or text me (Betty Conlon) at 414 870 1432.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Betty

www.449cabins.org

You still have time to rent an Elmbrook cabin

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You may select from three cabins located directly on a bluff overlooking Little Lake Tomahawk, situated near Hazelhurst, WI. These cabins are the pride of your Post and have provided countless members and their families a marvelous vacation retreat.

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Our three cabins are on Little Tomahawk Lake, located in Wisconsin's American Legion State Forest, just down the road from Camp American Legion's Main Lodge.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Empowering Women, Inspiring Communities

AUXILIARY DIRECTORY

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Vice President	**Virginia Bragg**	**850-247-3297**
Treasurer	**Kitty Larkin**	**262-295-2922**
Secretary	**Lilli Schwantes**	**262-617-2686**
Chaplain	**Betty Conlon**	**414-870-1432**
Sgt.-at-Arms	**Heidi Plutul**	**414-870-1948**
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms	**Vivian Schmidt**	**262-782-0605**
Parliamentarian	**Lynne Ehnert**	**414-630-1959**
Member-at-Large	**Jean Ramlow**	**414-476-2721**
Member-at-Large	**Colleen Gotowitz**	**414-617-8887**
Member-at-Large	**Carol Lers**	**262-719-1105**

President

Jennie Riemer 262-642-7206
shakinjmr@yahoo.com

Happy Easter everyone. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered for the snacks at the march meeting. They were delicious. Thank you to Vivian's daughter Monica and granddaughter Brittany for sharing the delicious cheesecake. (that was Vivian's favorite) We are looking for volunteers for the nomination committee for the next meeting. It saddens us with the loss of a great person, and we will be having a celebration of life for Vivian on Saturday, April 11th from 1 -4 pm at Post 449.

I would like to give a message on behalf of the new kitchen manager Joe Bragg Jr.; he is asking all members of the Post 449 legion family to please help support a new effort to restart the kitchen, which is run by Post members. This will require all of us to work together. He is looking for three volunteers from Thursday through Sunday, and in the future on Mondays. His goal is to have a backup chef and enough staff to cover those days without overworking anyone, including himself. So about ten people would be a good start. Thanks, Joseph P Bragg Jr. Hope to see you at the meeting on April 21st at 6 pm.

Chaplain

Lylette Smith
414-378-4107
lylettesmith03@yahoo.com

Happy Blessed Easter!

Our Auxiliary is extremely sad, we lost one of our Executive Committee Members, Vivian Schmidt, Assistant Sargent at Arms. Please pray for her family at this difficult time. Thank you.

A huge thank you to Karen & Jim Young for all the support the Auxiliary has received. It is truly appreciated.

Thank you to Sheila Hinek for donating more beautiful silverware for our Veterans in Boland Hall, Union Grove.

Thinking of You cards are sent monthly to several Auxiliary members to let our members know how valued and missed they are within our ALA.

Our meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6:00pm is social, meeting is at 6:30pm. Please consider attending. Your presence brightens our gatherings and enriches our community.

Please support our Auxiliary Fundraiser, Daffy Days, May 16th, 1:00pm - 4:00pm. We will have a basket raffle, wine pull & 50/50 raffle. Mark your calendar to attend and support.

"No Veteran was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave." --- Calvin Coolidge, 30th president of the United States of America

As we navigate through our days, let's remember to seek strength, protection, and guidance from God. May the Lord's love accompany us always! Always choose kindness! From each of life's misfortunes, large or small, comes a new beginning, an opportunity to renew our faith.

God's riches Blessings & Prayers to everyone!

Unit 449 Auxiliary Membership Report

Kitty Larkin, Carol Lers

Vivian Schmidt was sorely missed at our March meeting, but we appreciated the attendance of her daughter Monica and granddaughter in her stead. They brought Vivian's favorite cake to share with all in attendance and that brought a smile to everyone's face. This was a very thoughtful gesture on their part, and we thank them for sharing a family memento of Vivian with us.

WE had a lengthy discussion about the mission of our organization and our dues. The $36.00 annual dues are split between Waukesha County, 1st District, Department, our rent to the Post as well as the printing and distribution of the 449er. This is in addition to the mission objective which is aid to veterans. We then voted to raise the dues to $40.00 per annum beginning with the 2027 dues. At the next meeting we will vote on changing our documents (bylaws, standing rules) to be inclusive of the changes in dues. You can be a part of this decision by attending this meeting.

Our annual Daffy Days luncheon will take place on May16th beginning at 1:00 p.m. with a luncheon which will be a repeat of the 2022 luncheon, 1/4 of a chicken with all the trimmings including dessert. This is usually hosted by the Past President, but we are asking for everyone's help due to the small number of Past Presidents among us. Kathy Lucarelli has graciously agreed to be chairman of this event and will accept everyone's offers to help. We have extra copies of the dessert recipe for the bakers in the group. Any donations of wine, raffle baskets and gift cards (big or small) are acceptable. Kathy (262-879-0368) will be happy to take your call. But most of all we'd like to see your attendance at the luncheon. Plan for a late lunch that day and lots of fun after that! Thanks to all of you!

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

OFFICERS DIRECTORY

Commander	**Leigh Rainer**	**262-549-1939**
Vice Cmdr.	**John Mahoney**	
2nd Vice Cmdr.	**Open**	
3rd Vice Cmdr.	**Joe Bragg**	
Chaplain	**Open**	
Finance Officer	**Leigh Rainer (Angi)**	**262-549-1939**
Sgt at Arms	**Joe Bragg (Billy)**	
Adjutant	**Leigh Rainer**	**262-549-1939**
Judge Advocate	**Rick D Steinberg**	
Legion/S.A.L. Advisor	**Open**	

A "Greetings" from Leigh Rainer, your S.A.L. Grand Pubba

If you are renewing your membership, mail them to me, Leigh Rainer, at N20W22276 North Ave., Waukesha, WI 5318 or leave them at the Post in an envelope marked **S.A.L. membership.** ***"PLEASE, DO NOT RENEW ONLINE".*** The dues are $20.00 per year or $35.00 for 2 years. *"Please include your e-mail addresses."* If you have any questions regarding the S.A.L., (meetings, etc.) please give me a call at 262-549-1939

Your S.A.L. is looking on ways to have a fundraiser. If you have an idea, (with-in reason), please bring it to our attention.

Your "**HONOR GUARD" could use and do** need more people to help in their mission of honoring the fallen. Please consider volunteering your time to help us in that mission. *You **DO NOT** have to be a veteran or in the military to be on the HONOR GUARD.*

"And you think you have it bad"

The other day my girlfriend asked what kind of rings we should get for each other. I said: "Onion" .....(she has no sense of humor)

We are the ***"Sons of the American Legion,"*** a team you can depend on.

American Legion Post #449 MENU

Appetizers:

Chicken Wings

1lb Chicken Wings

Buffalo or BBQ Sauce

Celery Sticks

Ranch ($12.00)

Entrees:

Cod Fish Fry Basket (Fridays Only)

2 pcs Beer Battered Cod Loins

Accompanied with a Choice of Fries or Potato Pancakes with Apple Sauce, Tartar Sauce, Coleslaw, Lemon and Rye Bread with Butter ($15.00)

Double Smashed Burgers

2-3oz Beef Patties, American Cheese, Shaved Red Onions, Lettuce, Tomato, Mayo on a Burger Bun

Accompanied with Fries ($10.00)

Crispy Chicken Sandwich

House Breaded Chicken Tenders, Mayo, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Shaved Red Onions on a Bun

Accompanied with Fries ($10.00)

Grilled Chicken Sandwich

Grilled Chicken Breast, American Cheese, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Onions, Mayo on a Bun

Accompanied with Crinkle Fries ($10.00)

Chicken Tender Basket

4 Pieces of House Breaded Chicken Tenders with Fries,

Honey Mustard Sauce ($10.00)

POST 449 PROUDLY PRESENTS

JOYCE BEVAN on the piano EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT 4:30 *TO* 6:00

FRIDAY LOUNGE MUSIC 6:30 - 10:00 (*$7.00 Cover Charge*)

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Gary A. Glojek
Attorney at Law
6212 W. Greenfield Ave.
West Allis, WI 53214
Phone: 414-774-3414
Fax: 414-774-3413
Rick D. Steinberg, J.D.
Attorney at Law
GlojekSteinbergLaw.com

STEVE SCHMIDT
Funeral Director
Schmidt & Bartelt, Inc.
Funeral Service
Family and Employee Owned
10121 W. North Ave. • Wauwatosa, WI 53226
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Homes for Heroes® is dedicated to serving and giving back to firefighters, EMS, law enforcement, military (active, reserves and veterans), healthcare professionals and teachers when they buy, sell or refinance a home.
It's our way to say Thank You.
Average Hero Rewards® Savings:
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Receive significant Hero Rewards savings when you buy, sell or refinance a home with our real estate, mortgage, title and home inspection specialists.
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FOUR FORTY NINER

Volume 80, Issue 4 | **The *Four Forty Niner* is published monthly** | **April 2026**

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		3 Closed	1 Closed	2 Open 4:30 - 10p Karaoke from 5-9 p Cook-in 5:30-8p	3 Open 4:30-10p Joyce Bevan 4:30-6p 22nd St Horn Band 6:30-10p	4 Open 1-10p AMETICAN GRAFFITI 6:30-10p
5 Closed	6 Open 4:30-10p Sign in	7 Closed LEGION MEETNG 1-2p	8 Closed	9 Open 4:30 - 10p Karaoke from 5-9p Cook-in 5:30-8p	10 Open 4:30-10p Joyce Bevan 4:-6p FALCONS 6:30-10p	11 Open 4:30-10p OUR HOUSE 6:30-10p
12 Closed	13 Open 4:30-10p Sign In	14 Closed AUX MEETING 6-8 p	15 Closed MILLER/ COORS 10-4p	16 Open 4:30 - 10p Karaoke from 5-9p Cook-in 5:30-8p	17 Open 4:30-10p Joyce Bevan 4- 6p Sovereign Drive Collective 6:30-10p	18 Open 1--10p HIT MEN 6:30-10p
19 Open 1-6p DIRTY BOOGIE	20 Open 4:30-10p Sign In	21 Closed	22 Closed	23 Open 4:30 - 10p Karaoke from 5-9p Cook-in 5:30-8p	24 Open 4:30-10p Joyce Bevan 4:-6p XCALIBURS 6:30-10p	25 Open 4:30-10p OUR HOUSE 6:30-10p
26 Closed	27 Open 4:30-10p Sign In	28 Closed	29 Closed	30 Open 4:30 - 10p Karaoke from 5-9p Cook-in 5:30-8p		