Date: June 7th, 2016
To: Dunn County Commanders, Post 32 American Legion+ Auxiliary Members
From: Commander Markham, Post 32 and Dunn County Commander
Subject: “Post 32 Election of Officers” Meeting: Monday, June 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Greetings Post 32 American Legion and Auxiliary Members! It’s been sometime since we last corresponded. First off, a brief update on “membership” whereby 
Post 32 is at 90.59% with 120 out of 129 members having signed-up so far. I’m asking for “one last push” for our remaining members who have not renewed their membership for the 2015-16 year to help us get to a 100% Post. Please send your renewals and $40.00 check to:
Ted Stearns, Membership/Finance Officer
American Legion Post 32
Post Office Box 14
Menomonie, Wisconsin 54751

Passing of Post 32 Member and Menomonie V.F.W. Post 1019 Commander
John Kosman, January 20th, 1934-May 30th, 2016: The Menomonie Veterans’ community lost one of our greatest members this past Memorial Day. Menomonie Honor Guard members attended the John Kosman Memorial Service on Thursday, June 2nd and he was buried with the appropriate Military Honors. His wife, Helen and many family members and friends survive John. This is personal for me in that John Kosman was a friend, mentor and we worked together many years when John was a bus driver for Menomonie Transportation and I was a Building Principal and Administrator for the School District of the Menomonie Area. In fact, John Kosman is the person who sponsored and invited me to be part of the local V.F.W. in Menomonie. So long, my friend, you will always be missed!

Membership Dunn County-Post 32: District 10 includes Baron, Dunn, Buffalo, Eau Claire, Chippewa, Pierce, Pepin, Trempealeau and St. Croix counties with 60 posts and 6330 legion members. The State of Wisconsin is in 8th place at 95.15 %. District 10 membership is currently in 7th place in the state at 93.57% membership. The nine posts in Dunn County are currently at 90.59% and again, Menomonie Post 32 is currently at 90.23% of membership. The Dunn County Membership percent totals are:
Menomonie Post 32 is 90.23%
Elk Mound Post 37 is 100%
Colfax Post 131 is 92.31%
Downing Post 232 is 80%
Wheeler Post 235 is 77.78%
Boyceville Post 314 is 84.85
Connersville Post 323 is 87.50%
Ridgeland Post 511 is 103.13%
Eau Galle Post 542 is 83.33%
Total Percentage of Dunn County is 90.59%
**Important State-National Legion Reports Due: Consolidated Post Report [C.P.R.], Children and Youth [C.Y.] and Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation [V.A.R.] reports were due June 1st.** The "Annual Post Data Sheet" was actually due in April but if not already completed, please forward the Annual Post Data Sheet, Consolidated Post Report, Children and Youth and Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation to the State Headquarters in Portage. In addition, the **Officer Reporting Form and Certifications of Officials** “forms are due by July 1st, because of June Officer Elections. **Please send copies to District 10 Adjutant Dallas Loesal at W748 Loesal Road, Mondovi, Wisconsin 54755. Dallas’ phone contact number: 715 797-3893. Post 32 Commander Markham completes these reports each year for our local post.**

**District 10 Chaplain Cliff Sorenson-Reporting “Deceased Member” Lists:** Chaplain Sorenson would appreciate these lists being sent by April 1st each year [starting in April 2017] to be included in the “District 10 Spring Conference Memorial Services each year.” Please send names-lists to: Mr. Clif Sorenson, 5814 Inwood Drive, Eau Claire, WI. 54701. Telephone No. 715 830-9492 cliffsoenson@gmail.com

**Important Upcoming Post 32-Dunn County Council Dates:**
Menomonie Post 32 Meeting/June Elections: Monday, June 13th at 7:00 p.m. [Vet Center]
Dunn County Council Meeting/June Elections: Tuesday, June 21st at 7:00 p.m. [Vet Center]

*16th Annual Flag Day Program on Tuesday, June 14th at 10:00 a.m.* The Menomonie Honor Guard and Post 32 members will be participating in the annual “Flag Day Program” in downtown Menomonie at the Veterans Memorial-Sidewalk Bricks. There will be a **Flag Retirement Ceremony** again this year following the downtown program at the Veterans Center of Menomonie at approximately 11:30 a.m. However, we are excited this year’s “Flag Retirement Ceremony” is being conducted by our local Boy Scout Troop 1701 and assistance from local Cub Scouts. The Menomonie Honor Guard will be providing the Firing Squad and TAPS at the end of the program. Everyone in the area is invited to attend the Flag Day Program and Flag Retirement Ceremony on Tuesday, June 14th.

*Sunday, June 26th at 11:30 a.m. Post 32 Baseball Team Sponsor Recognition: Wakanda Baseball Diamond No. 2 [See Details enclosed]*

**District 10 By-Laws and Resolution at Spring Conference:** Commander Markham attended the District 10 Spring Conference in Chetek along with some Dunn County members on April 23-24th. Perhaps the biggest change or outcome from the Spring Conference concerns the District Fall and Spring Conferences whereby it was voted and approved: District 10 Fall Conferences will become a single day [Saturday] event and traditional two-day conferences in the Spring. This means that there will be a Memorial and Banquet at the Spring Conference each year but not the Fall Conference. My sense is this was somewhat of a compromise between members who only wanted single-day conferences and other members
who prefer the two-day format. The District 10 By-Law changes can be accessed on the District 10 Website at: www.wilegion10thdistrict.org
The Menomonee Post 32/ Dunn County Sites can be accessed at: www.menomonielegionpost.org

Post 32/Dunn County Council Commander, District 10 3rd Vice Commander: There are 12 Districts in the State with approximately 59,000 Legion members and 60 posts in District 10 with 6330 members. Since last year I’ve been more involved at the District level because of being the 10th District 3rd Vice-Commander. District 10 by-laws preclude a District Vice-Commander from being a County Commander. However, as Vice Commander, my overall duties still include responsibility for Dunn and Barron County American Legion programs, Camp American Legion reporting and VAVS Hospital Representative at the Minneapolis V.A. Hospital. I’m currently serving as Dunn County Commander “Pro-Tem” until new officers are chosen at the Dunn County Council and Post 32 elections in June. In addition to Post activities, I represent Post 32 at the County Council meetings, District Fall and Spring Conferences, D.E.C. Meetings, District 10 Membership Committee, numerous post/district committees, State and National Conventions.

Post 32 District 10-County Council Officers: Post 32 Member Nickolas P. Lange is the District 10 and Post 32 Judge Advocate. Post 32 member Marlin Severson is the District 10 Blood Donor Chairman. Marlin Severson also serves as the Dunn County Council Vice-Commander/Adjudant for the time being until the June County Council elections. Post 32 member and Dunn County Veterans Service Officer Greg Quinn [715 231-6571] is our Post 32 “Service Officer” and also serves in a similar capacity at the Dunn County Council level. We especially like the job Greg Quinn in doing in serving and representing our Dunn County Veterans. You can reach Greg at 231-6571. The Dunn County Veterans Service Office now has a newsletter that can be picked up, mailed or e-mail to: vet@co.dunn.wi.us

American Legion Baseball Post 32 Team/ Game on Sunday, June 26th at 11:30 a.m. at Wakanda Park. Post 32 legion members and Dunn County veterans are being recognized on the baseball field no. 2 at 11:30 a.m. Game at Noon. Post 32 Team coaches and parents are hosting Post 32 sponsorship and veterans recognition with a short program at 11:30 a.m. on diamond No. 2. Post 32 members will be offered free “Hotdog Plates” of food and homemade pies after the 11:30 a.m. program. We are encouraging our Menomonee Post 32 members and area veterans to attend this free event and watching the game at Noon on Sunday, June 26th.

District 10 American Legion Riders: District 10 now has a Legion Rider Chapter right in our backyard, so to speak. Jim Belivacqua is the President of 10th District Legion Riders. River Falls Post 121 is the “Home Post” for the District 10 Legion Riders but they meet at the Menomonee Veterans Center each month. Any members interested should call Jim’s phone number: 612 805-5375 or E-Mail=23jimmyv@gmail.com
May Poppy Sales for Post 32 Auxiliary:
The last several weeks have been busy with Memorial Day activities and recent Poppy Sales [$1930.29] on Thursday, May 21st. It was a beautiful day and we managed to increase our sales from last year’s total of $1895.87. A number of Post 32 members and other local veterans helped out again this year so a big thanks to all of you who helped sell the American Legion Poppies this year. Auxiliary President Nancy Doane passed on “note of thanks” in thanking everyone who helped out again this year. I did a report on the “Poppy Program” in a previous newsletter and there are strict guidelines and accounting for designation of the Poppy sales proceeds.

Old Business reviewed at our May 9th Meeting included: We had our traditional January Holiday Luncheon and March Legion Birthday Luncheons at the Leisure Services Center. Commander Markham and Membership/Finance Officer Ted Stearns usually provide finance, membership and information updates of the American Legion during the luncheons. A number of Post 32 Legion members participate on the Patriotic Council in planning the local Memorial Day Program each year and “setting-up” Flanders Field: at Bank Mutual downtown. The Patriotic Council met in May in planning another successful “Memorial Day Program” at Evergreen Cemetery and our Post 32 is a dues paying member of the local Patriotic Council. Thanks to everyone on the Council, especially Chris Hamm, Marlin Severson and local C.V.S.O. Greg Quinn.

On Saturday, April 2nd, 2016: Veterans Ministry Committee: “American Legion Post 32” was one of the sponsors for the recent presentation of “Moral Injury, P.T.S.D. Agent Orange and Healing for Veterans and their Families.” The presentations focused on how post traumatic stress affects the whole family, including the veteran, herbicide exposures, especially Agent Orange and “moral injury” that combat veterans struggle with in wartimes. This workshop was presented in April with sixty-plus attendees for the speaker, breakout sessions, vendors of local service providers, healing service and lunch served by the “Community for Veterans” Homeless Shelter in Menomonie. Commander Markham serves on the local Veterans Ministry Committee as a Legion representative with the group. A special part of the workshop included a “Healing Service” that was well attended by the members participating in the workshop. Thanks to the Post 32 Legion members who help out in making the program successful.

Commander Markham was recently appointed as the Veterans Administration Voluntary Services [VAVS] Associative Representative of the American Legion on the V.A. Voluntary Service Committee at the Minneapolis V.A. In addition to attending the meeting and related activities, Commander Markham has implemented and coordinates a “music therapy program” that includes visiting Northwest Wisconsin veterans hospitalized at the Minneapolis V.A.
Commander Markham attended the “High School Awards Night” in May in presenting our Badger Boys Certificate to our two High School representatives [Brandon Doughty and Elijah Zech] this year. A special thanks goes to Ted Stearns who coordinates the Badger Boys State Program each year. Post 32 members and officers continue to collaborate with the Dunn County Service Officer, Greg Quinn in planning and implementing multiple veterans’ events throughout the year. Commander Markham serves as one of the Dunn County Veterans’ Commission members in administering the “Soldier Relief Fund” in the county. Most of the “Soldier Relief Funds” provide transportation to Dunn County veterans needing medical care at area V.A. Health System facilities. The other members of the Commission are Gilbert Mounce [Legion member] from Downing and Gary Lauer [Legion Member] from Eau Galle.

Wisconsin Veterans I.D. on Wisconsin Driver License: Wisconsin veterans who have a valid drivers license can now get the “Veterans Status” designation on your license. As of May 9th, 2016 our Dunn County Veteran Service Office can verify and document your eligibility for the Driver’s License “Veterans Status.” Members can access the Wisconsin Dept. of Veterans Affairs website to download the application or the same application can be downloaded on the District 10 Website at: www@wilegion10thdistrict.org

**Important Dates for Post 32 and Dunn County in 2016:**

*June 13th*: [Monday] **Post 32 Meeting** 7:00 p.m. Veterans’ Center of Menomonie.
*June 14th*: **Flag Day Program** on Thursday, June 14th at 10:00 a.m. Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Veterans Center of Menomonie by local Boy Scout Troop 1701.
*June 11 thru June 18th*: **Badger Boys State** in Ripon, Wisconsin.
*June 11-12th*: [Saturday-Sunday] **Wisconsin American Legion College in Appleton, Wisconsin.** [Post 38] See Commander Markham for Details!
*June 15th* [Wednesday] **District 10 Blood Drive at Post 80 in New Richmond:** Noon to 6:00 p.m.
*June 17th* -June 19th: **American Legion”Legacy Run for Pride” Motorcycle Run** with final stop at King Day [June 19th], Wisconsin American Legion.
*June 19th* [Sunday] **King Day-Membership Card Distribution:** 61st Annual Pilgrimage for American Legion to King Home and distribution of membership cards to each District in State. Post 32 member Nick Lange will bring membership cards back from the King Day Celebration.
*June 21st*: [Tuesday] **Dunn County Council Meeting** scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Veterans Center.
*June 26th*: [Sunday] **American Legion Baseball Game/Legion Recognition**
*July 11th*: 2016 [Monday]: No Post 32 American Legion Meeting in July!
*July 14th*: -July 17th: **American Legion State Convention** in Middleton, Wisconsin.
*July 22-July 26th*: **Dunn County Fair:** Legion volunteers needed to staff a booth representing local veterans organizations. Booth Rental?
August 5th - August 7th: 31st Annual High Ground Bicycle Tour with stop in Menomonie on Friday, August 5th. Fish Fry at the “great Escape on Friday Night!
August 8th [Monday] Post 32 Legion Meeting; 7:00 p.m. [Vet Center]
August 10th [Wednesday] District 10 Legion Blood Drive at Post 80 in New Richmond: 12:00 Noon to 6:00 p.m.
August 14th [Sunday] District 10 D.E.C. Meeting in Chippewa Falls.
August 26th - August 31st: Legion National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio
September 10th - September 14th: “Moving Wall” Exhibit: New Richmond.
September 12th - No Post 32 Meeting in September!
September 13th: [Tuesday] Dunn County Council Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Veterans Center.
September 23rd: - September 25th: District 10 Fall Conference at Bracket Post 550 in Eau Claire
October 10th [Monday]: Post 32 Legion Meeting at 7:00 p.m. [Vet Center]
October 11th [Tuesday]: District 10 Legion Blood Drive at Post 80 in New Richmond: 12:00 Noon to 6:00 p.m.
November 11th: [Friday] at 9:45 a.m. Middle School Veterans Day Program
Menomonie Honor Guard: Flag Pole at 11:00 a.m. Shot Volley/TAPS
November 14th [Monday]: Legion Post 32 Meeting at 7:00 p.m. [Vet Center]
December 14 [Monday]: No Post 32 Meeting in December!