



## Wagner-Eberle-Sukowaty American Legion Post 477

PO Box 162

St Nazianz, Wisconsin 54232

Facebook: American Legion Post 477 - St Nazianz

Website: <https://americanlegionpost477-stnazianz.org/>

### COMMANDER'S CORNER:

Hello Post 477! I hope that everybody had an awesome 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration and enjoyed time with your family and friends!

As an introduction, I am Kevin Nett and I became Commander of Post 477 at May's meeting. Here is a quick rundown of who I am. I was born and raised in the Kiel area and graduated from Kiel High School in 1987 and served in the US Army from January 1989 to February 1993. In 1999, I graduated from UW Stevens Point – Natural Resource Management - Land Use Management (minor in Political Science). I was employed by New Holstein Utilities and worked in the Wastewater/Water departments from January 2000 to July 2020. In November 2000 I married my wife, Bonnie. We moved to the St Nazianz area in 2001, and raised four kids. I have been a life-member of the American Legion for 23 years and am also in the Disabled American Veterans – DAV. Since retiring, I've taken a more active role in the Post, serving as the Adjutant and Service Officer, and now, as Commander.

I am very excited to lead Post 477 in the future, because of each and every one of you! I have never seen such hard work and dedication in supporting our veterans, youth, community and displaying Americanism – which was really brought forth with the presentation of a \$70,000+ check to Old Glory Honor Flight! Keep up the awesome job! God bless you and America!

### FINAL SALUTE:

Post 477 member, Don Sebo, passed in March. Donnie, an Army Veteran who served during Vietnam was a 18-year Legionnaire. We were very fortunate to have spent time with him on Mission 66 Old Glory Honor Flight in April 2024, and, again near the holidays when we presented him with his service quilt. Post members provided military honors at his funeral in early May.



Wayne Schuette, a USMC Veteran and member of our Post passed in late June. Wayne was a familiar face in the Cleveland Community having served with the Cleveland Fire Department and the Lions Club. We'll conduct military honors at his funeral services on Saturday 12 July at the St. John-St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cleveland beginning at 11:50 with the walk-up. Military Honors will follow at the St. John's (Kassa Cemetery). Please arrive at the cemetery NLT 12:30.

Sadly, we must also share the passing of Post 477 member and Army Veteran, Jim Punke. He and Carol attended many of our events over the past few years. Jim had the opportunity to travel with Old Glory Honor Flight in October 2022 and he received a service quilt from the Post last year. Funeral services and military honors begin at 2 p.m. on 12 July at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kiel. Please plan on being at the walk-up at 1:50, if possible, many of us will be coming from Cleveland.

Finally, we also presented military honors for Brother Peter Farnesi, SDS. Brother Peter was a WWII Army Veteran who is now buried at the Salvatorian Cemetery in St Nazianz.



### NEW MEMBERS:

Please help us welcome the following new members to Post 477:

Heather Bruckschen – Army GWOT Veteran  
Alex Koenig - Active Duty Navy - currently attending training in Connecticut  
Ryan Krueger - Army GWOT Veteran  
Will Matthes - Army Veteran – Cold War Era  
Peter Schramm - Navy Vietnam Veteran  
Richard Young Sr. - USAF Veteran – Cold War Era

### WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO:



1) The Veteran Street banners became reality!! It was very exciting to see the banners going up. Volunteers from the Village Shop worked Friday and Saturday of Memorial Day weekend to make it happen. The banners look amazing, started conversations, and brought people to town.

We've had many questions regarding how to sponsor a banner. We have the next 30 printed and ready for Veterans Day, and anticipate taking applications for 2026 beginning around 1 February. We'll share info on social media, via email, and in the local newspapers.

#### 2) Our Tee It Up Fore

Golf Outing for Old Glory Honor Flight and Missions of Honor was an outstanding event with 199 golfers, 40+ Sponsors, and more than 70 Volunteers! We're beyond thankful and humbled by you, our volunteers. Volunteers define the success of an event, and your enthusiasm and engaging attitudes helped create a sense of Community. Thank you!

And, it was very cool to catch up with many Old Glory Honor Flight alumni, all sporting their OGHF gear, who joined us throughout the day.





3) This year's Tractor Days were jam packed with activities beginning with the presentation of the BIG check to Old Glory Honor Flight and Missions of Honor. **\$70,982!!** That check is the combined total of proceeds and donations from the SAL's Flight for a Flight dart tourney, the TUFT golf outing, UTV raffle proceeds, and a \$20,000 donation from the listeners and staff of Seehafer radio stations which included donations from the Vietnam Veterans of America, Manitowoc Lincoln HS students, and a 'red bucket' challenge at various taverns throughout the County. Talk about a Community!

Friday evening included music by Larry's Little Brothers and food sales. A special thanks to the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) members who took 'lead' Friday night.



Things were happening on Saturday! 28 tractors showed up and participated in the Tractor Parade to include a couple driven by Post 477 members. The winning tickets for the UTV raffle were drawn at noon. Cleveland resident, Neil, happily took possession of the UTV keys. A Veteran and TUFT sponsor, Jon, won \$750 and fellow Veteran, Mike, won \$250. Throughout the day, there was a Vendor's Fair, food sales, and raffles. Of particular note, the Vendors made a generous donation to the Post in support of our ongoing activities.

Needless to say, Tractor Days were a volunteer heavy event. We're thankful to the entire Legion 477 family and your family members who helped out.

### **UPCOMING/ONGOING ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS:**

1) The Post will lead the Cleveland Dairyland Festival parade on Sunday, 3 August. In addition to the flag detail, we invite Legion 477 Family members to walk/ride along in the parade. And, once again, we invite Old Glory Honor Flight alumni to ride along wearing your OGHF gear. Please share this info with any friends who've been on an honor flight, not just post members.

We ask those participating in the parade to meet at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Washington no later than 11 a.m. to assist with the setup. Uniform is white shirt, tie, dark slacks/shorts, Legion vest, and headgear. If you don't have traditional Legion gear, please wear Legion, Veteran or patriotic shirts.

2) The Manitowoc County Fair is 20-24 August; we're responsible for staffing the Legion booth on Friday, the 22d, and again on Sunday, the 24<sup>th</sup>. We've added a Veterans' Oasis which will provide Veterans and their families to take a break, sit and chat.

3) Meat's Fest is on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of August. Our flag detail will lead the parade and we invite the entire Legion family to walk/ride along. Meet at the south end of town on Highway A no later than 5:00, we step off at 5:30. Uniform for the flag detail is traditional Legion attire, all others are invited to 'dress down' in Legion, Veteran or patriotic gear. Do you have a cool vehicle (car, truck, military vehicle, bike) to help transport members who are unable to walk the route? Please let Kevin know.

4) Post 477 members are participating in two important, but different, team-building events.

The first is Pulling for Honor on 16 August at the Appleton Airport Safety Center. We'll pull with the Manitowoc County Veterans team. There's no cost to participate, but as a team we must raise \$1500. The mission: a 20-member team pulls a 200,000-pound plane 12 feet in the shortest amount of time for bragging rights and to raise funds for Old Glory Honor Flight. Please reach out to Heather for more information. (920) 704-4191.



The second event is the Boots on the Ground Wisconsin Veteran Suicide Awareness Ruck. 17.5 miles moving from Plymouth to Kohler on the Old Plank Trail and the return. Some of us have already decided that we'll do fewer miles and not carry a ruck, so that's OK too. This is a Legion Family event. Contact Nancy for additional info. (920) 905-6273.



5) Plans are in the works for a Legion 477 Family Social on Thursday 23 October at Shadows in School Hill. The evening is an opportunity to meet and engage with the entire 477 family and your families. This 'Fall Fun' themed event will begin with group photos and include a potato bar, games for the kids, and door prizes for the adults. We'll share more info as we finalize plans, but please save the date, 23 October. If you'd like to help out, please reach out to Gary (920) 652-6811.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Our 2026 membership drive began on 1 July with a bang! We've added five new members and more than 50 members have already renewed.

There are several ways to renew your membership:

a) Did you earn a 'volunteer voucher?' Cash it in!

b) Attend any of our upcoming events and give your \$35 dues to Kevin, Nancy or Jeff. Voucher, check or cash.

c) Mail a \$35 check written to American Legion Post 477 to PO Box 162 St Nazianz, WI 54232. Please place "Membership" on the memo line.

d) Go online: [legion.org](http://legion.org), click on the red "Renew" icon near the top of the page. You'll access by using your member ID # and credit card info.

e) Call National at (800) 433-3318 and follow the membership prompts. You'll need your membership #, credit card info, and patience (you may be on hold for a time).



### **MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:**

1) We're bantering about the idea of establishing an American Legion Riders chapter. The Riders are an association which support American Legion programs and raises money for Veteran charities and participates in community events. Membership requirements for the ALR are: Legion, SAL or Auxiliary membership, ownership of a 500 cc motorcycle (or greater), and

you must be licensed and insured. Please note, because this is an association and because we'd be the only chapter in Manitowoc or Calumet Counties, members of other Legion Posts, Squadrons and Units are welcome to join.

Please reach out to Jeff to let him know you may be interested at (920) 902-6801.

2) The post has a website! [americanlegionpost477-stnazianz.org](http://americanlegionpost477-stnazianz.org) It includes Post activities, a photo gallery, links to our social media pages, membership info, and post history. We're still working out the bugs, please let us know if a link or URL isn't functioning. Thank you.

3) If you or someone you know served in any component (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves), at any location, at any time, prior to 7 May 1975, you are eligible to participate in Old Glory Honor Flight. Veterans fly at no cost! And, you are able to request to fly with 1-2 fellow Veterans and chose your Guardian (must be 18-69 years old). The wait list is currently 15-18 months long, so sign up soon! Contact Nancy (920) 905-6273, she'll assist you in submitting your application which generally takes less than 15 minutes.

If you have any questions or hesitations, speak to one of our OGHF Alumni; Jerry Augustine, John Jacobs, Wayne Petersen, John or Gloria Reis, Gary Schmitz, Pete Schramm or Rich Ward. Without exception, each of them will say "Do It."

## Membership Meetings

### POST MEETINGS:

September's meeting is on the 25<sup>th</sup> at the St Nazianz Village Hall. The SAL meeting begins at 5:30, the Legion follows at 6:30.

As mentioned, on 23 October, we'll meet at Shadows, but this will be more a social than a meeting.

The Post Executive Committee (PEC) continues to meet at least monthly to ensure that Post business/planning is completed. If you have anything you'd like to discuss, please reach out to Kevin, he'll add the topic to the agenda.

### IMPORTANT POST, MANITOWOC COUNTY & 6<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT DATES:

- 18-20 July – Department Convention @ KI Convention Center in GB
- 20-24 August – Manitowoc County Fair
- 8 September – Manitowoc County Council Meeting – 6 p.m. – Eagles Club Manitowoc
- 25 September – Post & SAL Meeting – St Nazianz Village Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- 23 October – Legion 477 Family "Fall Fun" – Shadows – time TBD
- 27 October 2025 – District Conference – Montello Post 351

### POST LEADERSHIP:

- Commander: Kevin Nett (920) 286-3009
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander & Membership: Jeff Bronson (920) 901-6801
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander & Fundraising: Gary Bonnett (920) 652-6811
- Adjutant & Public Relations: Nancy Rivera (920) 905-6273
- Finance Officer: Chris Bestul (920) 629-9107
- Service Officer: Rebecca Pribyl (920) 645-8102
- Service Officer: Heather Bruckschen (414) 704-4191

**BE THE ONE**

TO **ASK** VETERANS  
IN YOUR LIFE  
HOW THEY ARE DOING

TO **LISTEN** WHEN  
A VETERAN  
NEEDS TO TALK

TO **REACH OUT**  
WHEN A VETERAN  
IS STRUGGLING

 AMERICAN  
LEGION



## CONTACT US:

- Mailing address: PO Box 162 St Nazianz, WI 54232
- Post Email: [americanlegionpost477@gmail.com](mailto:americanlegionpost477@gmail.com)
- Commander's Email: [commanderpost477@outlook.com](mailto:commanderpost477@outlook.com)

## Our Story in Photos



Top left and clockwise: Dan showed off his Massey-Harris tractor & Post 477 pride during the Racine 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Our "Factory Feed" brat sales remain popular and keeps our volunteers busy. The Tractor Parade stretched for a county block and included wagon rides. Commander Kevin and SAL member John pass the UTV keys to the winner, Neil. John sold him the winning ticket. The TUFT flag detail was easy to spot even in the morning fog. Volunteers managing the food sales during Tractor Days. The check presentation to Diane and Drew from Old Glory Honor Flight.

