

Legion post highlights donations, awards

American Legion Post 477-St. Nazianz is living up to their motto of "Doing Big Things in OUR Community."

During Tractor Days in late June, they presented Old Glory Honor Flight & Missions of Honor with a \$70,982 donation. During the presentation, Nancy Schnell Rivera, co-chair of the Tee It Up Fore Troops Golf Outing, said the donation was "bigger than American Legion Post 477, bigger than Tee It Up Fore Troops, bigger than the village of St. Nazianz. This check represents a community, our community, your community."

And, during the 106th annual Department of Wisconsin American Legion Convention in July, the Post earned a number of Americanism, Membership and Public Relations awards and their local nominees for awards were also recognized.

Post 477 was the recipient of the Harvey V. Higley Americanism Award which recognizes the post with the greatest achievement for the preceding year. Post 477's community engagement activities related to this award include hosting the Tee It Up Fore Troops Golf Outing, Tractor Days, their Christmas with the Veterans project, participation in the We Honor Veterans program, and participation at several local Veterans Day activities.

Post Commander Kevin Nett, accepted the membership awards on behalf of the Post. Those awards included the greatest percentage award for attaining the largest percentage over the year's membership goal. Post 477 increased their membership from 124 to 147 or 117.6% over their goal of 125.

They also received the Meritorious Service Award for All-Time High membership. This is the third consecutive year they have received this award. Prior to 2022, their all-time high was in the 1953-54 membership year when their membership was 72.

The post also received the Post Excellence Award which is presented to Legion posts achieving excellence in four areas—membership, submission of the Consolidated Post Report, attaining a 90% renewal rate and community activity.

Additionally, the Post 477 Facebook page was recognized as the Department Public Relations (Social Media Category) award winner. Of special note, the post's Facebook page was also named the first-place winner of the National American Legion 2025 Media & Communications Social Media award. This annual contest recognizes the work members of the Legion do to positively promote and educate about the organization in print and online. The Post 477 Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionPost477>.

Finally, three area individuals and businesses were recognized during the convention. Kiel Area School District teacher Kate Thibeault was recognized as the Past National Commander Denise H. Rohan Educator of the Year. The Valdres Journal received the Public Relations (Press Category) award. And, the Wisconsin Employer of Veterans awardee was Worthington Enterprises of Chilton. Worthington was co-nominated by Post 477 and Post 125-Chilton.



Old Glory Honor Flight and Missions of Honor alumni present a \$70,982 donation to Diane and Drew MacDonald, co-founders of Old Glory Honor Flight.



American Legion Post 477 members (from left) Chris Bestul, Bernie Booth, Kevin Nett, Nancy Schnell Rivera and Chuck Augustine hold awards received at the 106th Convention of the Department of Wisconsin American Legion.

