



## WISCONSIN BADGER STATE ALL-AIRBORNE CHAPTER

CWO GILBERT E. HOLCOMB (RETIRED)

4912 ELM STREET

WESTON, WI 54476

715.581.9006

GILBERT@GILBERTHOLCOMB.COM

### March 2020

Chapter meetings are open to all members, are held at the “Lest We Forget” military display site in Marshfield, unless posted for alternative location, and start at 1500 and will get together after the meeting for some dinner and games. If you’re interested in getting involved in the administrative aspects of the Chapter, we have several positions open, plus we can just use your input and votes. It helps us to keep things in perspective by getting to know our members, face to face. We need your participation.

#### Chairman’s Comments:

**Happy New Year to fellow Chapter Members.** I hope everyone has had a great winter so far, one more month and we should be out of the woods.

Our next meeting is going to be at Marshfield on March 28<sup>th</sup>, right now we are planning on meeting at the museum in the basement of the “old” library, right next to the new library. One thing that we are going to do a little different is start the meeting at 1500 hours and then do a light dinner after the meeting to socialize for a while. This will give everyone more time on Saturday to get things done before coming to the meeting, so no excuse for not coming. We really need to get a good turn out as we still have not had an official election of officers for 2020. In fact we need members to step up and take over some positions.

In the newsletter is a schedule of events for the year as we have set up, this can change if something comes up but it is a start.

One heads-up for the June: There is going to be **two** events on the same day; our annual golf outing by Wausau on the 6<sup>th</sup>; and, the official stone laying will be at the Highground on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and then, a meet and greet with the new Director on the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup>. Many of us will be at the golf outing on the 6<sup>th</sup> but those that can’t make the golf outing can go to the meet and greet. Copy of letter from Highground Coordinator below;

Good timing! Going to be sending a letter out that we will be doing the organization stones on June 5, 2020 at 5pm. The Highground Board has hired a marine to be our new Executive Director. We are going to launch his meet and greet with the ceremony. There is a golf fundraiser on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Neillsville Country Club. We will then have the ceremony for stones at 5pm. Then on June 6<sup>th</sup> there is an open house for all military organizations with a meet & greet for the new director Saturday morning 9-12. We are hoping those dedicating stones will

be able to stay until Saturday morning. I don't have all the details for the events yet, but you will be invited!

Jim Yenchesky  
Chairman  
Badger State All Airborne Chapter 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN Association

## 2020 EVENTS SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POC1</u>
28 MAR	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, MARSHFIELD	JIM YENCHESKY
16 MAY	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, Oskosh	JIM YENCHESKY
18-21 MAY	ALL AMERICAN WEEK, FORT BRAGG, NC	FRANK MORRIS, K.DUBOIS
1 JUN	ANNUAL GOLF OUTING, TRIBUTE GOLF COURSE	MORRIS, HOLCOMB
25 JUL	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, Camp Am Legion	JIM YENCHESKY
5-9 AUG	ASSOCIATION CONVENTION, Houston, Texas	JIM YENCHESKY, F.MORRIS
26 SEP	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, HIGH GROUND	JIM YENCHESKY
7 NOV	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, RAFFLE DRAWING, ELECTIONS, WI VETERANS HOME, KING, WI	JIM YENCHESKY
19 DEC	BATTLE OF THE BULGE MEMORIAL CEREMONY	GIL HOLCOMB

WELCOME BACK TO THE ENDING OF WISCONSIN'S WINTER! MOST OF US HAVE BRAVED THE STORMS AND ENJOYED THE WONDERFUL WARM DAYS WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH. BUT NOW IT IS TIME TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS AGAIN!

Our first meeting will be March 28th at Marshfield in the old library. As Jim already mentioned, we plan to have our election which was put off in November because of the lack of attendance. We need everyone to step up and attend these meetings! When we only have a handful of people attending, how do we know what your views are. How can we make changes if you are not there to voice your ideas. We cannot come up with new ideas if we do not have new blood at the meeting to introduce new thoughts! This club belongs to **all** of you not just the officers!!

So this year we are going to go back to doing things we did in the past to make meetings more enjoyable. The meetings will start later in the day. We will have a supper after the meeting. Then after supper we will have a social hour (or more) playing games. So bring **your** favorite game. There is no guarantee that your game will be played that evening, but we will keep track and yours will be played at the next meeting!

I know that you all have heavy schedules to follow, but so do all of us. Please try your hardest to attend these meetings. We need new and younger people to step up and fill in

some of these offices. I will tell you that it is not all that difficult to do. There is always someone that will help you out, especially thru your first year!  
If at all possible, bring someone who is eligible to join along with you!

Come and see that this can be a fun experience for you and your mate!  
God bless all of you. Airborne all the way...

Your Secretary,  
Marge Morris

**Membership Dues:** Annual membership dues= \$35 @ year; All American member dues = \$350, covers the first 5 years and will be 50% of the annual membership dues thereafter.

**E-NEWS BULLETIN:** Get Army and Airborne related news directly to your emails! Members who insure they shared their email address with the Association will receive our E-news bulletin which contains informative articles about the 82nd Airborne Division, the Airborne community, the Military, Veterans issues, and even Association related articles, and links to our Bulletins, the Paraglide Magazine, and Fliers and Registration forms for Association Event. If you are not receiving the E-news bulletin to your email just send us your email address and we will add you to the list. Although we have had requests, we are only offering this benefit to our Association members. Sign up today and keep up to date on **WITHIN THE DIVISION AND FORT BRAGG:** Please visit the following 82d Airborne Division websites to find out what is happening within the Division and sign up for our E-News bulletin: <http://www.dvidshub.net/image> and <http://www.bragg.army.mil/82nd/pages/default.aspx>. Also, don't forget to check out the Division's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/82ndAirborneDivision>.

**ASSOCIATION UPCOMING EVENTS:** Support our Chapters! Please announce the following upcoming regional events at Chapter meetings, via the Chapter newsletter and website. Registration and information on these events were published in the Paraglide and/or on the Association's website at the following link [www.82ndairborneassociation.org/events.html](http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org/events.html). If you would like to have the Association President or Executive Director attend your event, please send an invitation to the National office in enough time for us to plan and we will do our best to attend.

- a. CANCELLED: 8th Annual Airborne Reunion, 27 – 29 February 2020 in Lexington, KY hosted by the Kentucky Airborne Chapter has been CANCELLED. Please contact the POC Bill Waller at (502) 396-4770 with any concerns.
- b. 2020 Sun City "All Airborne" Fiesta VIII, 1 – 5 July 2020 in El Paso, TX is hosted by the Benavidez-Patterson "All Airborne" Chapter. The POC is John Ceballos, 2608 Fort Blvd, El Paso, TX 79930-2116. The host hotel is Doubletree Hotel by Hilton, 600 N. El Paso Street, El Paso, TX 79901. Hotel reservations 800-445-8667, reservation code ADA 22.

**6th ANNUAL ASSOCIATION 50/50 RAFFLE:** Let's make our 6 th Annual 50/50 Raffle even more successful than the previous years. The drawing will be held on Saturday, 9 August 2020 at the Airborne Heritage Banquet during our 74th National Convention. You do not have to be present to win, but you do need to enter! Raffle tickets can be found on our website under Events and can be mailed to the National Office.

**FACEBOOK PAGE:** 'Like Us' at <https://www.facebook.com/82ndAssociation/>. This is the ONLY official Facebook page of the Association. We have no affiliation with any other sites that are using

## **Member information:**

ASSOCIATION 501(c)3 STATUS: Now that the 82nd Airborne Division Association is a 501(c)3 organization, it is no longer necessary for the Association to go back to check current Member DD-214s for their Time In Service dates. We will still need the DD-214 for new Memberships to verify the applicant's eligibility for membership by providing their Character of Service, Airborne status, and or their service in the 82nd Airborne Division. As always, the National Office will use the documentation to verify eligibility, and will return original copies of DD-214s sent to our office. The Association has 6 submitted all needed documents to the IRS for the Chapters to be designated as 501(c) 3 organizations. We hope to have resolution by no later than our Annual Convention.

## **MEMBERS MAKING THEIR LAST JUMP THIS YEAR:**

**Michael Haller, 98<sup>th</sup> FA, 1953-1955; Ronald Chier, MP Det, 1956-1961; Floyd Pratt, 513 PIR, 17<sup>th</sup> Abn Div, 1945; Gerald Diemel, C/2/504 PIR, 1960-1963; Vernon Wichman, 11<sup>th</sup> Abn Bde, 1953-1954; Terry Musser, 173<sup>rd</sup> Abn Bde, 1965-1968; Ronald Lodzinski, 456<sup>th</sup> FA, 1955-1957. More troopers for God's strike force.**

## **MEETING MINUTES:**

1. Meeting was called to order at 1:10PM at Mardon Hall in King by our Chairman Jim Yenchesky. The meeting was dedicated to Lee Meyer a 101st Veteran and a Wisconsin National Guard retiree. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jim Y.
2. Marge Morris gave the opening prayer.
3. A welcome message was given by Jim Y. commenting on a great turnout at the Korean War Memorial and also a wonderful turnout at the High Ground despite the inclement weather we endured.
4. Attendance at this meeting: Jim Yenchesky, Frank Morris, Gilbert Holcomb, Marge Morris, Howard Rennhack, Bert Schmitz and guests.
5. Secretaries report was approved as read in the newsletter, by Gil H. 2nd by Howard R.
6. Membership Update: There is no such thing as "Life Membership" anymore. Those who have life Membership at this time will be able to keep it, but new members will receive a 5 year contract that will be renewable every 5 years.
7. Bert S. brought a Roster from 10 years ago. Comparing to today's roster, we are down in registration by 51/2 members. This is due mostly to deaths but is also another reason to really go out and get more members, especially active members!
8. Treasurer's Report: CD's are up from last year. Golf outing did the best ever. Raffle was down from last year. All across the board we are looking good. If you want the exact amounts, please attend the meetings.
9. Chairman's Report: Jim Y. New Business:
  - A. All American Week: May 18th-24th Celebrating 75th Anniversary of the ending of WWII Application can be found on line.
  - B. Donations for 2020: Dogs trained with owners  
Equestrian-need more info  
Sand Box Vets-Do something for vet families  
Please inform us if anyone else knows of other organizations that would be an option to spearhead vets and/or families of vets in 2020. Either E-Mail, Phone or come to the meetings.Old Business:
  - A. We need more membership participation.
    1. Do you want more meetings?
    2. Would you like meeting closer to your area?
  - B. Please respond to one or all of the officers. Names and contact information is always on the front page of these newsletters. **Please help us!** Let us know if you are interested in holding an office. Let us know if someone you know is interested in joining the club, helping out at a picnic, getting involved in the

golf outing. We are always short of help. THESE THINGS CAN BE SO MUCH FUN IF WE HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE INVOLVED!!! Bring your children. Let us know in advance and we will try to set up a baby sitting area.

C. High Ground: The laying of the stone became a major problem last fall. They did not have the stone in the proper place. The newsletter will have the correct date, time, and place.

D. Elections were cancelled until the March meeting due to the lack of attendance.

E. Honorary Dinner: Tabled

10. Vice-Chairman's Report: Frank M. We are waiting to hear from the city of Stevens Point to see if they will allow us to put red, white and blue cut stones where the flowers used to be around the Monument.

11. Events for 2020:

A. Stone placement at the High Ground in the spring.

B. Meetings for 2020:

March 28th Marshfield Old Library

May 16 Oshkosh Airport Museum?

July 25 Camp American Legion

September 26 Wausau Family Picnic

November 7 King Raffle Drawing

C. Golf Outing: Frank Morris Chairman Marks the 76th Anniversary of D-Day

We need: **More Teams, More Prizes, and much more help!!!**

12. The drawing for the Raffle prizes:

**1st: \$100.00 Bert Schmitz**

**2nd: \$50.00 Lenne Teriara**

**3rd: \$25.00 Ruth Uhlig**

Congratulations to our winners, but to us you are all winners when you participate in keeping our club alive and functional. Thank you to everyone who helped out by purchasing raffle tickets in 2019!!! God's blessing on all of you.

Motion was made to adjourn by Frank M. 2nd by Howard R. Meeting adjourned at 2:15PM

**CHAPTER FINANCES:** Balance as of 1/1/2020 is \$7,413.27 as well as \$4,579.82 investments for total assets of \$11,983.09. Expenses for the year are \$6,211.05. The KIA fund has a total of \$969.39.

### **ALL AMERICAN WEEK:**

ALL AMERICAN WEEK (AAW) 2020: All American Week 2020 will be 18-21 May 2020. As you may know, the Airborne Inn lost the Hardy Hall building so that construction of the new Hotel can begin. Because of this, there are not enough rooms at Moon Hall for all our guests so we have also blocked rooms at the Landmark Inn (this Hotel is also on post) at a rate of \$79.99 per night. The Hospitality room and Wednesday Night Pig Roast dinner will remain at Moon Hall and transportation will be available to bring Members back and forth between Moon Hall and the Landmark Inn. There will also be transportation to the Thursday Night Banquet, and buses will run from Moon Hall and the Landmark Inn to all of the Division Events for the week. The construction will continue over the next couple of years and we will adapt as needed until the new Airborne Inn is completed. We are hoping for it to be completed by AAW 2022, but there is no clear date for completion set as of yet. The AAW festivities will still be a great event and one you will not want to miss. The All American Week online registration, printable registration and Flier are posted at our website at: 82nd Airborne Division 2020 All American Week. All of the information and codes for both hotels are available on the All American Week flier. We understand that there will be a lot of questions concerning these changes and we are working hard to make as much information as possible available, and will post this information at the website link above.

**82<sup>ND</sup> Association Annual Convention.** 74th ANNUAL CONVENTION: Our 74th Annual (2020) Convention will be held in Houston, Texas, from 5-9 August 2020 and is sponsored by our Lone Star Chapter. The Lone Star Chapter is already hard at work on planning the Convention and has posted the

registration at: <http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org/events.html> There are also two tours available during the Convention. A tour to the George H.W. Bush Library and Museum, and the Houston Space Center. These are two tours that are amazing and you won't want to miss. The Convention will be held at the HOUSTON MARRIOTT WESTCHASE, 2900 Briarpark Drive, Houston, TX 77042. You can make your hotel reservation by calling 713-978-7400, and using our Group name: 82nd Airborne Association Group ID # ACAN or you can make your reservation online at: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservationlink.mi?id=1566238121768&key=GRP&app=resvlink>. The hotel reservation cutoff date is July 5, 2020, so make your reservation early. This year's Convention will honor the 75th Anniversary of the 82nd Airborne Divisions contributions to the Victory of World War II, and the 30th Anniversary of the Gulf War. Join us as we honor our Divisions' Veterans and their sacrifices in securing freedom.

**CURRENT PROJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION:** This is a list of some of the Projects the Association has approved for working on in 2020:

a. Support for Families of 82nd Airborne Division KIAs, and WIAs: Providing assistance to the 82nd Airborne Division Association Wounded Warrior Fund through direct response to needs of Families immediately following the loss or injury of an 82nd Trooper.

b. Recognition of the Jumpmaster, NCO, and Trooper of the Year: Every year our Association recognizes the accomplishments of the 82nd Airborne Divisions Jumpmaster, Non Commissioned Officer, and Trooper of the Year at our annual dinner during All American Week (AAW). On the final evening of AAW, the Leadership and Troopers of the 82nd Airborne Division join the 82nd Airborne Division Association Members as we present these outstanding Troopers with awards to recognize their accomplishments (accomplished through Association and corporate donations).

c. 3 rd Annual All American Adventure 2020: Plan is to send twenty 82nd Airborne Division Troopers on a 4-day resiliency trip to the Catskill Mountains for fishing, hiking, biking and numerous other activities. Aimed at helping Troopers in reintegration after deployment, this project uses donations from Association Members and Chapters, and Corporate sponsorship to accomplish this project. This trip will take place in June 2020, provided we are able to secure funding for our Troopers. Help us in providing an avenue to assist our 82nd Troopers in their resiliency during their redeployment process.

d. Support for deployed Troopers of the 82nd Airborne Division: Our Association stands ready to provide support to our Deployed Troopers as they protect our Nation. The more donations we receive the more we can do to support our Troopers while they are deployed. Help us to show these Troopers our gratitude for their sacrifices.

e. Holiday Troop Support 2020: This year will be our 5th Annual "Holiday Troop Support" and we will again provide over 1000 meals to young Troopers and their Families over the Thanksgiving and Holiday Season to insure the Families of young 82nd Troopers have bountiful Holiday meals over the Holiday Season.

f. Honoring the Service of our World War II Veterans: The Association will again sponsor attendance of 82nd Airborne Division World War II Veterans at our 74th annual Convention honoring their service on the 75th Anniversary of the Victory of World War II. Please help us to once again honor the service of our WW II Veterans by supporting this project with your donations. Please give our Members the opportunity to share in the experiences of these National Treasures, while we still can, by bringing them to our 74th Annual Convention.

*(We're still looking for someone that could take over the editor's job for the newsletter and maintain the electronic sites. If interested let me know.)*

**MEMORIAL BRIDGE-STEVENS POINT**

The Memorial Bridge is to recognize and acknowledge any individuals that have served in an airborne capacity and/or have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, while serving in an airborne unit. The memorial displays plaques that give the trooper's name, unit, and time served or date KIA. The plaque costs \$100, if interested send a check to Gil Holcomb, 4912 Elm St., Weston, WI 54476, made out to Badger State Chapter. The plaques will be added to the memorial during a memorial event.

**WHO CAN WE ASSIST?**

During the year the Chapter contributes to a variety of organizations and individual veterans to assist them by providing services. This year we are asking the membership to let us know of those local organizations that support veterans they would like considered for a donation as well as the proposed amount of the donation, e.g., Patriot K9 (Service Dog Training), Stable Hands (Care and training of horses), American Legion posts, VFW posts, Man of Honor groups, veterans coffee clubs, Camp American Legion, etc. We want to be recognized as an organization that supports local veteran's service groups and our membership is throughout the state. Here's your chance to let us know about your area.

**BADGER CHAPTER LEADERSHIP:**

CHAIRMAN	JIM YENCHESKY
VICE CHAIRMAN	FRANK MORRIS
TREASURER	GILBERT HOLCOMB
SECRETARY	MARGE MORRIS
SARGEANT AT ARMS	DAVE KEMPS
TRUSTEES	JIM MORRIS; DOUG RASMUSSEN; KEVIN DUBOIS

82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Association  
4912 Elm Street  
Weston, Wisconsin 54476

To: