

St. Nazianz Legion brings home honors

American Legion Post and Squadron 477 of St. Nazianz continue to live up to their motto, "Doing BIG Things in OUR Community."

A dozen Legionnaires and Sons of the American Legion members attended the 107th annual State of Wisconsin American Legion Convention in July, where they accepted more than a dozen individual and organizational awards recognizing their commitment to veterans and military members, children and youth, and the local community.

Post member Heather Bruckschen accepted the Children & Youth Ambassador Award on behalf of Post 477. Over the past year, the post has placed a strong emphasis on youth-focused programs, including Read Across America, Trunk or Treat, Family Fun Fest, activities at Camp Sinawa, and sponsorships supporting Special Olympics athletes and a local Rodeo Princess.

Second Vice Commander Gary Bonnett accepted several membership awards recognizing the post's continued growth, including the Greatest Percentage Award. Post 477 grew from 147 to 159 members, reaching 106.7% of its membership goal of 149.

The post also earned the All-Time High Membership Award for the fourth consec-

utive year. Before 2022, Post 477's highest membership high was 72 members, established during the 1953-54 membership year.

Commander Kevin Nett accepted the Post Excellence Award, presented to posts that demonstrate outstanding performance in membership growth, achieve at least a 90% renewal rate, complete all required reporting and maintain active involvement in their communities. Post 477 was one of only 19 of Wisconsin's approximately 500 American Legion Posts to earn the prestigious award this year.

Two members received individual honors. Rebecca

Pribyl received the Arline Rintoul Memorial Outstanding Woman Legionnaire Award, recognizing her exceptional service and dedication to the principles and ideals of the American Legion. Nancy Rivera earned the Silver Brigade Recruiter Award for recruiting at least 25 new members into the American Legion.

Representing Sons of the American Legion Squadron 477, Kristoffer Cox accepted four membership awards, including the Triple Nickel Membership Award, all-time high membership and a citation of achievement for surpassing the squadron's 2024 membership total.



Well Awarded

American Legion Post 477 of St. Nazianz received several awards at the recent state convention. Above, from left, Gordon Loffland, Nancy Rivera, Chuck Augustine, Heather Bruckschen, Kevin Nett, Gary Bonnett, and Chris Bestul, display the awards. At left, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 477 members Dean Koenig and Kristoffer Cox attach membership streamers to the organization's flag in recognition of the squadron's membership accomplishments.

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