

[View in browser](#)

## Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard Newsletter November 2025



---

### A Season of Gratitude: Honoring Our Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard Family

As we move into the holiday season, our hearts are full—with gratitude, with pride, and with deep appreciation for every one of you who makes the Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard what it is.

This time of year naturally invites reflection, and when we look back on the months behind us, one truth shines brightly: **our organization is built on the kindness, compassion, and unwavering dedication of our volunteers.** Every tribute you attend, every uniform you press, every mile you drive, and every comforting word you offer brings dignity and honor to the nurses and families we serve.

During a season centered on giving, it's impossible not to recognize the extraordinary generosity you have shown—not only in your time, but in your hearts. You volunteer on busy weekdays, long weekends, holidays, and in the quiet moments when grief is fresh and families need someone to stand beside them. You carry forward a tradition of respect and remembrance that touches communities all across Wisconsin.

As winter approaches, we are reminded that light can come in many forms. **You are that light.**

You shine through your service, through your teamwork, and through the grace you bring to every ceremony. You remind families that their loved one's work mattered—and that the legacy of nursing endures.

Please know how truly grateful we are for each of you. Your commitment is the reason we continue to grow, continue to serve, and continue to bring

comfort and honor to those who devoted their lives to the healing profession.

From our entire Board of Directors, we wish you a season filled with warmth, peace, and joy. May you find rest, connection, and moments of quiet gratitude—just as you so often create those moments for others.

**Thank you for being the heart of the Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard.**  
Your kindness makes all the difference.

## Growth and Stats!

### Year-to-Date Snapshot: Thank You for an Incredible 2025!

We are thrilled to share a quick update on how our Honor Guard family is doing this year—and it's all thanks to you.

We have officially surpassed last year's total number of services *and* our number of active members!

#### **Service Overview**

**Total Services Completed: 142**

**Services by Region**

- **Southeast:** 81
- **Northeast:** 22
- **Central:** 21
- **Southwest:** 11
- **Northwest:** 8
- **Rochester, MN:** Completed their *first* service in September—congratulations!

#### **Membership Update**

**Total Members: 394**

**Members Who Participated in a Service in 2025: 161** 🌟

**Members by Region**

- **Southeast:** 155
- **Northeast:** 85
- **Central:** 56
- **Southwest:** 44
- **Northwest:** 47
- **Minnesota:** 7

#### **Help Us Keep Growing!**

Your local connections are powerful.

Please continue spreading the word in your communities—**you are our marketing team**, and your outreach makes all the difference.

Thank you for your dedication!

## Commendation from the State of Wisconsin!

We are honored to share that the Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard has received an official State of Wisconsin Commendation from Governor Tony Evers. This recognition celebrates the dedication, compassion, and service our volunteers provide to nurses and their families across the state. We are deeply grateful for this acknowledgment and proud of the meaningful impact our organization continues to make in Wisconsin's nursing community.



**BIO - Pledge, Poem, or Both - Changes!**  
**IMPORTANT!**

At our Summit in Pewaukee, a few excellent suggestions were made to help improve our service process. These changes are simple but will make it much easier for the *Lead Nurse* to prepare and ensure everyone has the same information.

## Updated Bio Format

Schedulers — when they create a bio, they will include the following details **at the top** of the document:

- Nurse's **name and title**
- **Location and date** of the service
- **Who** the gift will go to
- **Which readings** should be used — *Pledge, Poem, or Both*

### Example:

Nancy L. Nurse, RN  
Neenah – Monday, Oct 27  
Gift to: Daughter, Lisa Hildebrand  
Use both Pledge and Poem

## Clarifying the Readings-Schedulers will do this!

We've had some differing opinions regarding which readings to use during services. To ensure consistency and respect for each family's wishes:

- **Schedulers (who speak directly with the family) will decide which readings to include — *Pledge, Poem, or both.***
- If the **bio is long**, please select just one reading.
- If the service is small or we are the **only presenters**, both may be used.
- If many nurses are expected or time is limited, the **Pledge** alone may be best.
- Schedulers should use their judgment based on conversations with the family, funeral director, or setting.

The **Lead Nurse** may adjust if circumstances change (for example, if you find out someone else is already reading the poem during the service). This approach helps ensure that everyone knows what to expect before arriving.

---

## Pewaukee Regional Summit was a great Success!

Our final regional summit was held in Pewaukee on October 18th! We had about 40 members attend and it was an amazing afternoon of camaraderie, sharing, with a sprinkle of fun. We sincerely thank all those who attended!



---

## Leading with Kindness

### Upholding Our Values

At our Pewaukee Summit, we were saddened to hear that a few members experienced unkind behavior during services — described as *bossy*, *berating*, or *mean*. This is **not who we are** as an organization founded on compassion and respect.

While no names were shared, let us be clear: **unkindness has no place** in the Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard. If you experience or witness behavior that violates our values, please reach out so it can be addressed appropriately.

We are drafting a **Code of Conduct** to ensure every member feels safe, respected, and proud to serve.

---

## Uniform Change - Hats

**Members who have their own nursing caps from graduation are welcome to wear them.**

In the past, we requested that everyone wear a plain white cap, but we are now allowing members to use their personal graduation caps if they have them. Please ensure your cap is **clean and bright white**, not discolored or yellowed with age.

---

## Supporting Our Communities: WNHG Donates to Feeding America

This season, the Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard is proud to share that we have made a **substantial donation to Feeding America** to help address the growing crisis of food insecurity across our state. As nurses, caring for the well-being of others is at the core of who we are — not only at the bedside,



but within our communities. Ensuring families have access to nutritious food is one of the most fundamental ways we can continue that mission of care. Food insecurity affects thousands of Wisconsinites, including children, older adults, and working families who struggle to meet their basic needs. Feeding America provides critical resources, distributing meals and support to those who need it most. Our donation helps strengthen that work and extends the healing spirit of nursing beyond our ceremonies and services.

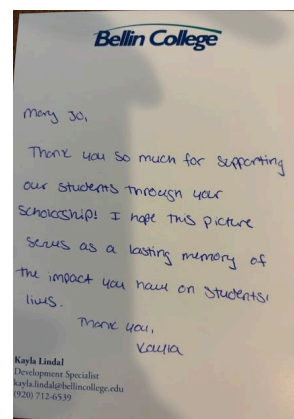
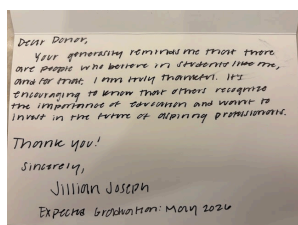
This gift was made possible **because of the incredible generosity of our members and the donors (families, friends, and colleagues) who support our mission.** Every contribution — whether time, talent, or financial support — allows the Honor Guard not only to honor nurses at the end of life, but also to uplift the living through compassion and service.

As we move through a season of gratitude, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to **each member and every donor** who makes our work possible. Your kindness allows the Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard to continue caring for our communities with the same empathy, dignity, and love that define the nursing profession.

Together, we are making a meaningful difference.

## Nursing Scholarship Thank you!

We received a heartfelt thank you from Jillian, our scholarship recipient from Bellin College in Green Bay. Board of Directors member, Mary Jo Ross, represented us at the ceremony. Congratulations to all our scholarship recipients!



## New WNHG Store for casual items!

### Introducing the WNHG Swag Shop!

We are excited to announce the launch of the **Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard Swag Shop**, an easy and fun way for members to proudly represent

our organization wherever they go! (Not to be worn as part of the uniform.)

Our new online store offers a variety of casual apparel and accessories featuring the WNHG logo — perfect for community events, outreach, travel, or simply showing your support in everyday life. Items are shipped directly to you, making it convenient to order what you love, when you want it.

From T-shirts and hoodies to hats, bags, and more, our shop gives members and supporters a stylish way to showcase the dignity and spirit of the Honor Guard. Every purchase also helps promote awareness of our mission and the legacy we work to preserve.

You can explore the shop here:

👉 <https://wisconsin-nurses-honor-guard.myspreadshop.com/>

We're grateful to our members for inspiring this addition and hope you enjoy these new ways to wear your WNHG pride. Happy shopping! Watch for Black Friday Deals!

---

## STAY CONNECTED AND CONTACT US

Contact us: via email:

[info@winurseshonorguard.com](mailto:info@winurseshonorguard.com)

Follow us on Facebook!

Public Page to see tributes: <https://www.facebook.com/winurseshonorguard>

Members ONLY Facebook Pages—Join as many as you wish!

Request to join: Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard Southeastern Region

Members Only: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/501745937852095>

Request to join: WNHG Northern WI Members:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/288817412590825>

Request to join: Wisconsin Nurses Honor Guard Central/Southwest Region

Members only:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4418688331525351>

Feel free to post anything of interest on the Member's Only pages! It can be fun things, interesting tidbits, uniform parts you are selling, questions, etc.

This page is a place to socially connect!

### Your Board of Directors:

Jon Krueger—Executive Director

Kelly Gronli— Director, Southeast Representative

Kay Kissinger-Wolf— Director, Northwest Representative

Mary Jo Ross-Vounteer Coordinator, Northeast Rep

Jane Hansen– Central Representative

Kristine Wineland– Northeast Representative

Kim Thurk-Southwest Representative

All board members can be contacted by emailing

[info@winurseshonorguard.com](mailto:info@winurseshonorguard.com) Sent with Zeffy

The only 100% free fundraising suite in North America.

[Learn more about Zeffy.](#)

[Unsubscribe from these emails](#)