



WISCONSIN



American Legion Auxiliary
P.O. Box 140
Portage, WI 53901

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The official publication of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

www.amlegionauxwi.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Joan Chwala
Department
President

Greetings to the American Legion Family. Wisconsin is preparing for the fall season. What is your favorite part of fall? I love to watch football games whether it is my local high school team, the Wisconsin Badgers or the Packers. But do you, too, also like to snuggle under your favorite afghan with a good book? Just what kind of book would you choose? If I could write the perfect books, these would be their reviews.

Why My Dad is a Hero- This book narrates the story of one of the men, who through his service, I was eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary. Here is part of my story:

My dad, Robert N. Morris, served in the Army in WWII with the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment and the 462nd Parachute Field Artillery as a part of the medical detachment in Battery D. His unit was given a Presidential Citation for their part in the winning back of Corregidor. Nicknamed "The Rock Force," under the command of Colonel Jones, the citation was accepted by General MacArthur. The book, The Return to Corregidor, describes the presentation of the citation and lists all who served including my father.

We encourage every Auxiliary member to send their story (and photo) to Teresa Isensee, our membership chairman

(isensee@centurytel.net) for a collection that will be displayed at the 2012 State Convention.

Recipes for Honoring Your Veterans- This book would be a collection of recipes or ideas for activities that would show our veterans how much we appreciate what they have done for us. It would include phrases like, "a biographical display in the local library" or "poppies on every lapel" and "letters to vets in nursing homes and hospitals." If you would like to hear more recipes, plan on attending the Mobile Book Club Roundups on November 5th and 6th.

My Experiences as Department President- This book would highlight the many emotions I felt as I was being sworn in as the Department of Wisconsin Auxiliary President during the National Convention in Minneapolis, the pride I felt marching with our fellow American Legion family members in the local parade that recognized the 10th Anniversary of September 11th, my pleasure in meeting individual unit members at Fall Forum or at local meetings and fundraising events, and finally how grateful I am to those who donated so many baked goods and used books during the Membership Rally which was held at Department Headquarters on September 10th.

Thank you to those of you who have renewed your 2012 memberships or have recruited new members! You are helping to write a record breaking Best Seller!

Joan Chwala, Dept. President

MEMBERSHIP

Teresa Isensee
Dept Membership Chairman
Email: isensee@centurytel.net
Ph: 715-667-3528(h)
715-577-5259 (c)

Thank you for your participation in the Membership Rally and the September 11th Remembrance Run/Walk at Department Headquarters on Saturday, September 10th. The Auxiliary collected **1008** Memberships. The winners of a 2012 Raffle Calendar were 2nd District, bringing in **205** memberships and Unit #51 West Salem from 7th District bringing in **88** memberships. **BUT OUR WORK IS NOT DONE** – we still have many units with "GOOSE EGGS." We need to continue working to retain our current members and recruit new members.

The American Legion Family Membership Team will be traveling November 5th and 6th to four locations within the state on its Mobile Book Club Tour and Membership Drive. A special drawing will be at each location – to get your entry slip for this drawing you must greet me during the tour with the word "WIG", remember this is our Wildly Important Goal.

On **Saturday, November 5th** we will be at the Cedarburg Legion Post starting at 8:00 a. m., then traveling to the Tigerton Community Center to begin at Noon.

On **Sunday, November 6th** we will be at the Mauston Legion Post starting at 8:00 a.m., then traveling to the Rice Lake Legion Post to begin at Noon.

Be sure to visit one of the four loca-

tions to review our Auxiliary Books on Etiquette, Civility, Word Games, Recipes, and Biographies. Prizes will be awarded at each location to the District, County and Unit bringing in the most Memberships.

"Failing to plan is planning to fail." This is a message from our National Membership Chairman Trish Ward. Veterans Day is right around the corner and this year it marks a special calendar event, **11-11-11**, the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month in the eleventh year: Friday, November 11, 2011. What a great way to promote the American Legion Family by honoring our veterans on this special day. Here are some suggestions:

- Plan a special community event
- Plan that all Auxiliary members wear the number 11 for the month - when asked why you can explain the important date to remember, Armistice Day/ Veterans Day
- Plan a party for all the veterans in your community, include members and non-members, invite them to your post for snacks or a meal
- Plan an American Legion Family program at your local schools
- Plan to distribute and/or decorate with Poppies
- Always have Membership Applications and information available

Reminder – send me a picture of your veteran(s) and a short biography, along with their branch of service. Email me a .jpeg picture or mail the picture to me. I will scan and return them.



Pictured Left to Right - Detachment Commander Russell Severson, Department Commander Denise Rohan and Department President Joan Chwala

Thank You!

Thank you to all who generously donated to and supported the Bake Sale for the Membership Rally and 10-year Remembrance Run/Walk at Portage on September 10, 2011. Special thanks to District Presidents Char Kiesling and Lorrie Barber for volunteering their time and assistance in packaging and pricing and manning the Goody Table.

*Thanks,
Joan Wilkinson*



Pictured Left to Right - Lou LaCroix, Joan Wilkinson and 8th District President Lorrie Barber

September 2011 - Total Membership: 47.53%



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Laurel DuBois, Department Chaplain
Ph: 715-825-3916
Email: sdubois188@aol.com

Hello to everyone. I hope this letter finds you all healthy and happy.

I am sitting on my upper deck watching the foliage slowly turning from green into golds, reds, and oranges. It is wonderful to watch a season change to create a new start. "THERE IS A TIME FOR EVERY SEASON."

Within the last few weeks, the National Convention took place in Minneapolis, MN. It was fun and informative.

Our new National President is Kris Nelson from the great state of Minnesota. Her project is to increase Membership and Volunteer Capacity among the younger generation. "HONORING THEIR SERVICE" is her theme. This theme represents all the Veterans who enable us to become American Legion Auxiliary Members.

With the State and National Conventions that have taken place, it is now a new year and a new beginning. New officers, chairmen, and unit members are here to make this year positive and uplifting. If we work together, we will reach our goals. We will succeed.

PRAYER

Please join me in the spirit of your own FAITH.

God,

This is the beginning of a new year of work in our beloved American Legion Auxiliary. Let us speak words of encouragement to our newly elected officers. Be with them, God, as they lead us in working on all the good programs we hold to be important.

Remember each one of our members, for they are needed in their own units for the work in their communities. Let us all work for God and Country together in harmony and love.

MUSIC

TURN, TURN, TURN *by the Byrds*

To Everything (Turn, Turn, Turn)
 There is a season (Turn, Turn, Turn)
 And a time to every purpose, under Heaven

A time to be born, a time to die

A time to plant, a time to reap

A time to kill, a time to heal

A time to laugh, a time to weep

To Everything (Turn, Turn, Turn)

And a time to every purpose, under Heaven

A time to build up and a time to break down

A time to dance and a time to mourn

A time to cast away stones, a time to gather stones together

To Everything (Turn, Turn, Turn)

There is a season (Turn, Turn, Turn)

And a time to every purpose under Heaven

I SEND YOU ALL MY THOUGHTS
 AND PRAYERS
 GOD BLESS YOU
 GOD BLESS AMERICA

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Bonnie Dorniak
Executive Secretary/Treasurer
608-745-0124
deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org
www.amlegionauxwi.org

You asked -- we listened! We are pleased to report that the department website has been updated to include electronic, fillable forms. We hope members will find this new service to be especially helpful for completing Member Data Forms, Unit Transmittals, Donation Sheets, etc.

Thank you to everyone who has already responded to our annual calendar fundraiser. Your continued support helps provide the funds to continue our work for veterans, the military and their families. Please contact Department Headquarters for additional entry forms. Remember, there are 366 chances to win in 2012 and winning entry forms are returned to the barrel each

day so you could win more than once! The last day to enter is December 31, 2011. Daily drawings start January 1st.

The IRS requires all non-profit organizations whose yearly income is less than \$50,000 to file the IRS 990N e-postcard on an annual basis at www.irs.gov. The IRS is now revoking the tax-exempt status of organizations that have not filed for the past three consecutive years. If your Auxiliary unit is in jeopardy or has questions regarding their tax-exempt status, you must contact IRS Customer Service at 877-829-5500. Neither Department nor National Headquarters can help restore the tax-exempt status of any Auxiliary unit.

Veterans Day is a time to remember and honor all veterans of the armed services. National President Kris Nelson's theme this year is "Honor Their Service." Auxiliary members do this every day through

their membership in the world's largest women's patriotic organization. If you would like to "honor the service" of an important veteran in your life, consider purchasing a commemorative button from the national membership team. Each customized button is 2-1/4" in diameter and contains a photo of the veteran (supplied by you) along with our memorial poppy and the National President's image mark for the year. Buttons are \$5 each or \$10 if you choose to add two lines of personalized text. Please see the button order form on page A4 and order your button today. The order form was also included in the September Unit mailing (last page) and is posted on the department website (Unit Mailings>September Unit Mailing). What a great opportunity to engage new members or share the Auxiliary's mission when people ask whose picture is on your button!

NATIONAL SECURITY

Diana Sirovina
Department Chairman
414-321-1479
durango1@wi.rr.com

So often we hear stories of families who are separated by deployments and spouses left behind to care for home and family. By supporting activities that address the needs of military service members and their families, the National Security program hopes to ease the worries of those who are far from home so they can focus on the enormous task of protecting our country.

As Auxiliary members, we can reach out to care for military families in very practical

ways, such as assisting with their needs for child care and home maintenance or by providing a listening ear to a stressed out spouse.

We can do other meaningful things such as collecting coupons and sending them to overseas commissaries, and hosting warm send-off and welcome-home events for our troops.

Auxiliary Units should partner with their Post, Squadrons and Legion Riders to get involved in programs that address the needs of our service members and their families before, during and after deployment. Information on The American Legion programs such as the Fam-

ily Support Network, Operation Comfort Warriors, and Heroes to Hometowns is available on the Legion website www.legion.org. The National Auxiliary website, www.alaforveterans.org has a wealth of information that can be found by clicking on the Gateway to Services on the top of the homepage.

National Military Appreciation Month is observed in May each year. Start making your plans now to partner with the rest of the Legion Family in your area and other community organizations to increase awareness of and show appreciation for our military families.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Karen Degner
Department Chairman
920-918-9772
mdegner@wi.rr.com

Children & Youth (C&Y) is "to develop and implement programs and activities that contribute to the physical, mental and emotional health of military children and veterans' children."

How can we do this? Auxiliary Units, along with their Legion Family, may undertake a military C&Y program or activity other than a national Auxiliary-supported program/activity. The program/activity should have military children and youth as its target population. Units can be involved in a program/activity that is innovative in nature or re-

sponsive to an explicit need among military children and youth. We can recognize and reward the positive actions of today's children and youth by bringing community and peer recognition/affirmation through Youth Hero Awards and Good Deed Awards.

Assist with ALA KIDDS (Kids in Danger of Depression and Suicide), an Auxiliary project that builds referral networks of public and private support at the community level for the social and mental well-being of military children. Did you know that since the invasion of Iraq, the number of military children seeking outpatient mental health has doubled to two million? Suicide has become a very real problem for military families during and after deployment for parents and their children. This

is our opportunity to help those we serve.

We can also support the implementation of Children & Youth programs of The American Legion. April is C&Y month. Next April seems a long way off, but it will be here before we know it. What does your Unit do to assist or recognize the children and youth of your community?

Ladies, you do a lot of good work throughout the year and you may be able to help other Units with projects or ideas. As we move through the next year, I would love to hear what is happening as it occurs. Remember, you don't need to wait until annual reports are filled out to share what a positive difference you are making in the lives of our future leaders.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Caroline Adams of Unit 447 in Viola is Wisconsin's "most mature" member at the age of 103 years young and proves you're never too old to get involved. She has been a member of the ALA for 15 years - joining at 88 years of age! Caroline had four brothers who served in WWII, her husband Leonard served in WWI, and her son was a Korean Veteran. Caroline's continued membership in the American Legion Auxiliary exemplifies how she "honors their service."

American Legion Auxiliary Christmas Gift Shop

Zablocki VA Medical Center
 5000 West National Avenue, Bldg. 1
 Milwaukee, WI 53295

Open October 17th - December 15th
 Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

414-384-2000 ext 42207
 Florence Groth, Supervisor
 Janice Dahlke, Assistant

Prior to October 17th you may call Florence at 414-282-6977 or 414-255-6457 (cell)

Minnesota Resident Elected National President of American Legion Auxiliary

MINNEAPOLIS (Sept. 1, 2011)—Kris Nelson, of Baxter, Minn., was elected National President of the American Legion Auxiliary during the organization's 91st National Convention in Minneapolis Aug. 26 – Sept. 1, 2011.

Nelson holds American Legion Auxiliary mission delivery near and dear to her heart. For her project as National President, she has initiated a campaign to increase membership and volunteer capacity among a younger generation.

"Through mission delivery, the American Legion Auxiliary will become so appealing to people who care about veterans that our membership will increase," Nelson told Auxiliary members and delegates during her installation of the organization's highest office at national convention. "We need to refocus how we do things and create opportunities for the younger generation that are meaningful and that they are able to work into their schedules. We must encourage and support new ideas of mission delivery projects and opportunities that women of all ages can participate in."

Nelson also encouraged convention delegates and attendees to spread the Auxiliary's word.

"We can only increase our membership and volunteer capacity if community members know who we are and what we do," she said. "Asking community members to join you in Auxiliary service projects will give them hands-on experience, will let them see and feel how our service projects make life a little easier for our veterans, military and their families."

Nelson, 59, is eligible for Auxiliary membership through her husband Terry (Vietnam Era, Army Reserves), stepfather Arthur Tarnowski (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Navy) and brother Rick Tarnowski (Air Force, retired 2008).

She has held a number of leadership roles

in the Auxiliary at the unit, district and department levels. Her unit awarded her a life membership in 1995. At the national level, she served as National Vice President, National Executive Committeewoman, Northwest Division Girls State Committee, Northwestern Division Membership Committee and chairman of the following committees: ALA Girls State, Education, Americanism, Children & Youth and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. She is a current board member of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation and a member of the Long Range Strategic Planning Committee.

Retired as director of human resources after 37 years with Consolidated Telephone Co. in 2008, Nelson has two children, Troy (Angie) and Sarah (Kent), and grandchildren Sydney, Myah, Ty and Kruze. She is a member of St. Andrews Catholic Church and is past board chairman of the Minnesota Telecom Alliance Education and Human Resource Committee. She also is a past board president of the Crow Wing County United Way and currently serves on their Women's Health Initiative. She serves as editor of the SOLT Haiti Mission newsletter and as a member of the City of Brainerd Memorial Committee. She is a partner of the Eight & Forty Salon 85.

Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest patriotic women's service organization. With a membership of nearly 850,000, local American Legion Auxiliary units have a strong presence in more than 9,500 communities nationwide. The American Legion Auxiliary's mission to serve veterans, their families and their communities is carried out through its hundreds of outreach programs delivered by its members, volunteers and National Headquarters.



KRIS NELSON
National President of the American Legion Auxiliary

Central Division National Vice President Elected

Florence Briggs was elected Central Division National Vice President at the Central Division Caucus during National Convention in Minneapolis, MN.



FLORENCE BRIGGS
Central Division National Vice President

A senior member since 1966 and paid up for life member since 1995, her eligibility comes from her father, Albert Morris (a U.S. Army Veteran of WWI).

She served the Department of Indiana as District President (2 terms) and Department President (1995-1996) as well as various chairmanships. At the National level, Florence was National Executive Committeewoman, Vice Chairman of Public Relations and Committee member for Junior Activities.

For the past 25 years she's worked as an office manager at the Boyce Animal Hospital. She is also an active member of the Daughters of the American Colonists, Daughters of the American Revolution and a board member of the Union Cemetery Association. She is married to Lou Briggs.

2012 CALENDAR FUNDRAISER

Have you entered the 2012 American Legion Auxiliary Calendar Fundraiser?

366 Winners \$12,000 in Cash Prizes!



For Additional Entries contact Headquarters at 866-664-3863

Sept. 10th Membership Rally



Linda Cason, Auxiliary Headquarters Staff, with her husband Frank as they support the Membership Rally at Department Headquarters on September 10th. Auxiliary Units turned in 1,008 memberships that day! Linda and Frank also sold American Legion Family bumper stickers and window clings. To order yours please complete/return the order form on page A4.

M. Louise Wilson Loan Fund

Vi Feldmann
Department Chairman
920-892-4784
vifeldmann@webtv.net

CALLING ALL AUXILIARY MEMBERS GOING TO COLLEGE!!!

Each member of this Wisconsin organization has an opportunity to further their education with the help of the ALA through the M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan Fund.

The Department offers a \$400.00 interest free loan to its members seeking a higher education. This fund is set up to aid women Veterans, mothers, wives, daughters, granddaughters, great granddaughters, grandmothers and sisters of honorably discharged veterans.

The amount of \$400.00 may be borrowed each year that you attend college. There is no interest charged unless the loan goes into default. Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school with a scholastic average that would place her in the upper half of her class.

An application must be filled out and accompanied with the Veteran's DD-214 discharge papers. A certified copy of the applicant's high school grade transcript must accompany the application. Three letters of personal reference are needed. (References from relatives are not acceptable). Contact me (either by email or snail mail: 106 South Milwaukee, Plymouth, WI 53073) to request an application.



Jean Anderson and Barb Ludka promote the Poppy Program in support of President Joan's theme "Libraries of Love." This was one of many American Legion Auxiliary programs highlighted at the 2011 Fall Forum held September 23-24 in the Wisconsin Dells.

Junior Activities

Anna Rosemeyer, Department Chairman
Ph: 715-559-4696
amrhandinhand@yahoo.com

Joan Wilkinson, Co-Chairman
Ph: 715-535-2387
budygram@frontiernet.net



Junior Activities Fall Conference
Saturday, October 15th 2011
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
The High Ground
Neillsville, WI 54456

The "Library of Love" is open for all Wisconsin American Legion Junior Auxiliary members

****and a special veteran of their choosing****

to attend the 2011 Junior Fall Conference to be held at The High Ground in Neillsville, WI just off of Highway 10. The Juniors will start their day with a tour of the grounds, followed by lunch, a meeting and fun activities in the Learning Center.

TOUR ** LUNCH ** MEETING ** ACTIVITIES

Junior Auxiliary Honorary President Mariah Pursley will conduct the Fall Meeting following lunch. Then the Juniors will move into activities to learn about the Patch Program and to interact with veterans. Lunch will feature Soup and Sandwiches. Registration fee is \$1.00 per person. Lunch is \$5.00 per person.

*Please send reservation form with payment by Friday, October 7th, 2011 to:
Anna Rosemeyer, 113 North Wilson Street, Thorp, WI 54771*

2011 Junior Fall Conference Reservation Form

Unit # _____ District# _____ Name: _____ JR _____ SR _____
 Unit # _____ District# _____ Name: _____ JR _____ SR _____
 Unit # _____ District# _____ Name: _____ JR _____ SR _____
 Unit # _____ District# _____ Name: _____ JR _____ SR _____
 _____ # Juniors to Attend _____ #Seniors to Attend
 \$ _____ Enclosed for Registration Fees at \$1.00 per person attending.
 \$ _____ Enclosed for Lunch at \$5.00 per person attending.

"HONORING THEIR SERVICE" Commemorative Button

In support of National President Kris Nelson's theme "Honoring Their Service," the 2011-2012 ALA National Membership Team has created custom buttons for members to display a photo of a special veteran in their life. The cost of the button is \$5.00 each or \$10.00 with two lines of personalization.



Finished button size is 2-1/4".

How do you order a button? Scan a photo as a .jpg or .pdf file and send via email to ALAbuttons@yahoo.com. Include your name and "Dept of Wisconsin" in the subject line of the email. Then mail the following order form with payment to the address below. Upon receipt of the email, the photo will be matched with the order form. If you can't scan the photo, mail it with the order form and payment to the address below. Photos will be returned with the button.

Questions? Call 913-837-0556 or email: ALAbuttons@yahoo.com

BUTTON WITHOUT PERSONALIZATION

Photo Description: _____ X \$5.00 each = \$ _____
OR (QTY)

BUTTON WITH TWO LINES OF PERSONALIZATION

Photo Description: _____ X \$10.00 each = \$ _____
(QTY)

(text line # 1)

(text line #2)

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Email: _____
 Phone: _____

Mail order form, payment and photos (if not sent via email) to:
Trish Ward • PO Box 610 • Louisburg, KS 66053

Make checks payable to:
ALA National Treasurer
Put "ALA Button" on memo field.

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY BUMPER STICKERS & CLINGS



Bumper Sticker
(7.5" x 3.75")



Window Cling
(5" x 4")

Unit City Location _____ Unit # _____
 Date _____ Dist # _____

QTY	ITEM	PRICE	TOTAL
	Wisconsin American Legion Family Window Cling	.50	
	Wisconsin American Legion Family Bumper Sticker	.50	

PACKAGING & SHIPPING
 Up to \$5.00 Add \$.095
 \$5.01 to \$10.00 Add \$2.95

Sub-Total \$ _____
 Postage (see chart) _____
TOTAL REMITTED \$ _____

Send to: _____
 Complete Mailing Address: _____
 City/State Zip: _____
 Phone: _____

Please make checks payable to – ALA. Send order form with payment to:
American Legion Auxiliary - Department of Wisconsin, PO Box 140, Portage, WI 53901

August 2011 Calendar Raffle Fundraiser

	\$ Amt	Stub #		
1	15.00	15125	Kevin Wegner	Grafton WI 53024
2	15.00	23263	Vivian Burr	Eau Claire WI 54701
3	15.00	08294	Rosemary McKinney	Fond du Lac WI 54937
4	15.00	50141	Stuart Fritchen	Fitchburg WI 53575
5	15.00	19996	Barbara Hammond	Viola WI 54664
6	15.00	51572	Mary Reed	Juneau WI 53039
7	25.00	24365	Colleen Nowobcelski	Thorp WI 54771
8	15.00	00484	Josephine Kirkeeng	Janesville WI 53548
9	15.00	08278	Margaret Beaster	No Fond du Lac WI 54937
10	15.00	21676	Helene Stein	Warrens WI 54666
11	15.00	13694	Alice Peters	Kimberly WI 54136
12	15.00	20484	Riley Haight	Pardeeville WI 53954
13	15.00	19065	Ruth Curti	Genoa WI 54632
14	25.00	52707	Kathleen Jones	Stevens Point WI 54482
15	15.00	18948	Helen Hanesworth	Stoddard WI 54658
16	15.00	52821	Eunice Baumann	Wausau WI 54401
17	15.00	15860	Diane Nett	Malone WI 53049
18	15.00	18158	Robert Cupp	La Crosse WI 54603
19	15.00	18495	Cathryn Connor	Camp Douglas WI 54618
20	15.00	47123	Dennis Breunig	Waukegan WI 53597
21	25.00	05370	Phyllis Hirn	Wausau WI 54403
22	15.00	12087	Dorothy McMillan	Beaver Dam WI 53916
23	15.00	43545	Mary Deterville	Green Bay WI 54302
24	15.00	09642	Doris Kodzik	Greenfield WI 53220
25	15.00	39384	Theresa Gorst	Clermont FL 34711
26	15.00	09642	Doris Kodzik	Greenfield WI 53220
27	15.00	10193	Marilyn Reese	Milwaukee WI 53219
28	25.00	51566	Susan Merkis	Waukesha WI 53188
29	15.00	15403	Frances Mangan	Kiel WI 53042
30	15.00	49064	Isabelle Coogan	Mineral Point WI 53565
31	15.00	19644	Jeanette Stabenow	Eau Claire WI 54703
	505.00			

Please note – If not cashed within "90 days" check will be voided without any notification sent to you. If it's after "90 days" call our office. We are open Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:30 pm. Phone: 608-745-0124.