



WISCONSIN



American Legion Auxiliary
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The official publication of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

www.amlegionauxwi.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Joan Chwala
Department
President

Greetings,

Here are your new book reviews for the Year 2012!

Politics and the ALA

- This book is about the rules for speaking out about our political opinions. As members of the American Legion Family, we must be careful not to

express our own opinions while dressed in Legion or Auxiliary attire. We are not even supposed to wear our logo when we attend rallies for our favorite candidates. That could be misinterpreted as the opinion of the Legion Family. The Legion Family can take a stand on legislation as it refers to care and benefits for Veterans. Please read the Dispatch to understand the policy that has been approved at conventions.

The President's Veterans Day Adventures - Your auxiliary president was involved in several activities for Veterans Day observances. This year my own speech featured information from the book, America's White Table, while State Little Miss Poppy Amelia Olson, held up each symbol used to honor our POW-MIA. I also gave greetings at two school programs and worked at a local Fish Fry Fundraiser. Odanah Post and Unit 25 in-

vited me to take part in their Powwow Tribute to Veterans. It was an awesome experience!(see picture, pg A3)

Legion Family Official Hospital Visits

- The official hospital visits have begun. Great things are happening in these Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities. Women Veteran Advocates have been hired to make sure that our females are receiving separate and appropriate attention for their needs. It has been my pleasure to present your donations to the directors of these facilities who have expressed gratitude for your generosity.

Holiday Season - Time to Spread Good Cheer

- Because of the dates of the Badger Legionnaire Publication Schedule, this edition of the Wisconsin will arrive at your home after Christmas. Never fear, it is still the season to spread good cheer! The holidays extend from the day after Halloween (didn't you notice?) until well into January. That's not a complaint - it's great! That gives us more time to be happy and send loving greetings to all of our friends and loved ones.

With that last book summary in mind, I close by wishing you all a Merry Christmas and an especially Happy New Year!

Joan Chwala,
Department President

MEMBERSHIP

Teresa Isensee

Dept Membership Chairman

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Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) is PRICELESS. For over 90 years, the ALA has reached out to veterans, active military, and their families who need assistance to improve the quality of their lives. We embrace the value of "Service Not Self" and value our founding principles of justice, freedom, democracy, and loyalty.

Have you paid your 2012 Membership Dues? To continue to make a difference in the lives of those we serve, your membership is PRICELESS. What better way to honor the veterans in your family than to continue your membership in the ALA? Help the Department of Wisconsin achieve the 100% membership goal. President Joan will purchase a brick at the Headquarters Building on behalf of the members of the Wisconsin ALA who are dedicated to our veterans when we reach 100% or more in membership.

Does your Unit need revitalization or a little jump-start? Your Membership Team is here to help. Please contact me to set-up a meeting. We will help members understand the organization's mission and vision and explain how they contribute to the success of our organization. Review your Unit's activities and focus on the most successful. Most important - be sure to include all your members!

2012 Membership Goal Awards Earned:

Early Edition Awards will go to 13 Units: Unit 25 Odanah, Unit 458 Wauzeka, Unit 341 Birnamwood, Unit 140 Merrilan, Unit 162 Alma Center, Unit 266 Colby, Unit 28 Valdars, Unit 83 Sheboygan, Unit 16 Milwaukee, Unit 128 Stockbridge, Unit 471 Hatley, Unit 376 Fall Creek, and Unit 127 Hilbert.

Reading Room Awards will go to 45 Units: Unit 2930 Portage, Unit 354 Ettrick, Unit 410 Fredonia, Unit 94 Crandon, Unit 476 Loomis, Unit 136 Niagara, Unit 107 Mosinee, Unit 159 Cadott, Unit 432 Hammond, Unit 401 Cambria, Unit 96 Webster, Unit 33 Neenah, Unit 522 Hubertus, Unit 109 Lancaster, Unit 248

Cottage Grove, Unit 366 Princeton, Unit 477 Nazianz, Unit 227 Spring Valley, Unit 396 Indian Creek, Unit 8 Waukesha, Unit 37 Elk Mound, Unit 446 Steuben, Unit 260 Deerfield, Unit 309 Kendall, Unit 259 Prairie Farm, Unit 267 New Auburn, Unit 131 Colfax, Unit 245 Cross Plains, Unit 361 Wilmot, Unit 36 West Bend, Unit 250 Adams, Unit 362 Kennan, Unit 62 Columbus, Unit 378 Brandon, Unit 33 Neenah, Unit 404 Emerald, Unit 503 Dane, Unit 416 Milwaukee, Unit 246 Genoa, Unit 29 Kewaunee, Unit 325 Goodman, Unit 158 Maiden Rock, Unit 454 Mt Calvary, Unit 81 Mauston, and Unit 424 Mercer.

Thank you, Units that reached or exceeded the Membership Goal. The next goal award is the Due Date Award, 100% by January 26th. Let's all work on membership and bring the Department of Wisconsin to 100% before the end of January!

NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

NEC

Florence Wasley

Alternate NEC

Gayle Janson

Audit Committee

Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan (Member)
Cavalcade of Memories Committee
Pearl Behrend (Member)

Finance Committee

Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan (Member)
Honorary National Junior Officer for Central Division
Mariah Pursley

Leadership Committee

Diana Sirovina (Member)

Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee

Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan (Chairman)

Past Presidents Parley

Barbara Kranig (Vice Chairman)

Public Relations Committee

Diane Duscheck (Chairman)

"America's White Table" Presented to Gilman School



President Joan Chwala presents the book "America's White Table" to Gilman School Principal Georgia Kraus. State Little Miss Poppy, Amelia Olson also gave a speech at the Veterans Day All School Program.



December 2011 - Total Membership: 80.74%



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Laurel DuBois
Department Chaplain
Music Chairman
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I can't believe that this year is coming to an end. Time goes by so quickly. I remember when I was twelve and I said "I can't wait until I am thirteen." My mother said "Honey don't ever wish time away, time passes quickly enough. Enjoy and celebrate what you have now." My mother was a very smart woman!

December is a month of reflection and remembering. On Dec. 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor was attacked and the US declared war on Germany and Japan. It is a date that should never be forgotten. We must always remember the sacrifices of our Veterans of that war and all wars since. Because of them we are safe and free.

December is also a month of celebrating and giving. It is a time to gather with family and friends. It is a time of joy and reaching out to others. It is important to remember those who may not have family members close by – to reach out and let them know they are part of our family. Plan a visit, take cookies and breads, spend time with them, let them know that they are not forgotten and they are needed. Send holiday greetings to our Veterans. Take time to visit the VA medical facilities. There are so many things we can do to send the message of caring and it can be done by keeping our hearts open.

Living in the United States we have the privilege to practice the religion of our choice, and we are free to wish each other a MERRY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY HANUKKAH! SHALOM! AND SEASONS GREETINGS!

Prayer

In the spirit of your own faith, please join me in prayer;
 Heavenly Father, guide us through this season of joy and giving. Bless all of your children with peace and happiness. Bestow a special blessing on our veterans and troops who may be far away from their families. Give us the wisdom, to learn, to love, to respect and to be kind to each other not only during this holiday season but throughout the year. In your name we pray. Amen

Music

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear
Words By Edmund Hamilton Sears

It Came upon the Midnight Clear,
 That Glorious song of old,
 From Angels bending near the earth
 To touch their harps of gold:
 "Peace on the Earth, Goodwill to men,
 From heaven's all-Gracious King"
 The world in solemn stillness lay,
 To hear the Angels sing

GOD BLESS YOU
 GOD BLESS AMERICA



GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

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

If you plan to attend The American Legion Midwinter Conference, don't miss the ALA Luncheon on Saturday, January 21st. The Luncheon program will include a Membership update from Chairman Teresa Isensee with special incentive awards, and motivational guest speaker Dr. Barbara Phillips. Advance reservations (\$15) are required by January 4th to attend the ALA Luncheon. The registration form is available on the department website.

National Headquarters is issuing a second dues renewal notice to anyone whose dues were not received and processed at Department by mid-December. If you already renewed, please don't be alarmed if you receive a notice because things may

have crossed in the mail. However, if you haven't paid your 2012 membership dues, now is the time to submit them so you don't lose your membership benefits.

There was a printing error in Article VII of the Constitution as it appeared in the 2011-2012 Redbook (pages 66-67). The action approved at Department Convention in Appleton in July 2011 takes precedence over the printed section of the Redbook. Please see the department website for a corrected copy.

Department and National scholarship applications have been sent to Unit Presidents and Wisconsin high schools and are available online. If you know of any home schools in your area, please inform them of our scholarship opportunities.

American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State (ALABGS) session will be held at UW-Oshkosh June 17-22, 2012. Reservations forms have been sent to all Units. The \$240 delegate fee is due by

January 28, 2012. Wisconsin high schools have been notified to contact their local Auxiliary Unit so that every eligible girl who wants to attend ALABGS has the opportunity to do so.

Contest & Awards packets were mailed in early December. Please review these at your next Unit meeting. Also, don't forget to report every member's activities on the Annual Impact Report, which was included in the November Unit mailing and is available on the Department website. This is your opportunity to be recognized for all your efforts as an American Legion Auxiliary Unit.

As we look forward to 2012, please remember our military members who are serving abroad, continue to pray for their safe return, and support their families during their absence. May the year ahead truly bring peace and good will to all!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

From Bonnie, Linda, Andrea & Carrie



AMERICANISM

Joanie Dickerson
Department Chairman
608-996-2152
jomarie@tds.net

A loyalty and devotion to one's own country and the ideals for which it stands. This is the definition of patriotism. As an organization dedicated to God and country, we commit ourselves to promoting active, responsible citizenship. Through our words and actions, we lead the way in our local communities.

We have many opportunities to demonstrate good citizenship and patriotism. Flying the flag and being the "go to" people for flag education and etiquette is one. Organizing and participating in respectful observances of patriotic holidays and remembrances promote conscious recognition of the sacrifices that were made to secure the fundamental freedoms we enjoy today is another.

Educating our youth about the responsibilities of citizenship is also a way we ensure we are carrying out the ideals stated in our preamble "to inculcate a sense

of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation."

Our Americanism Essay contest invites school-aged children to write about their duty to our great country. This year's essay topic is "How Can I Show My Patriotism in My Community?" Children from grades 3 through 12 are eligible to participate and essay lengths vary by age group. This is a great way to get young people thinking about what they do to support their communities and show their patriotism. Reach out to your local schools and invite them to participate. Deadline for submitting your winning essays to me is April 11, 2012.

The American Leaders Youth Summit presented by Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge is another wonderful opportunity for students in grades 10 through 12. Participants meet other young people from across the United States and learn more about important topics associated with their constitutional rights and responsibilities as a citizen.

Although the National American Le-

gion Auxiliary no longer provides financial support for this program, it is still affiliated with Freedoms Foundation and supports its effort to inspire young people to become engaged citizens committed to participating in our democracy. This version of the previous Americanism Conference will include all the elements of civic education, leadership training and historical touring that our sponsored students have experienced in the past. The Youth Summit will be held February 23-26, 2012 at Valley Forge, PA at a cost of \$450 per person. This does not include transportation to/from Pennsylvania. There are no scholarships for this program. All costs for attendance must be borne by the participant or sponsoring unit.

Consider working with other civic groups in your community to sponsor a student for this conference. Many young people from Wisconsin have attended in the past and reported on their enjoyable and educational experience. Copies of the application can be found on the Department website (www.amlegionauxwi.org).



VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Virginia Kodl
Department Chairman
715-669-5432

Wow, what a year – thanks to your generosity! We started the hospital tours and President Joan is presenting money for requested gifts at each facility. Union Grove – new book shelves; WVH-King – "Go Talk Device" for speech therapy, Nintendo Wii system/games; Minneapolis VA – hosted a Thanksgiving Dinner outing; Iron Mountain – newborn baby items for women veterans; Kenosha Outreach - Wii games; Tomah VA – maintenance of the Aviaris the ALA purchased previously; Zablocki – commercial popcorn machine; Boudicca House – washer and dryer; and Middleton VA – Wii game system/metal cart. Also all of the money donated to "Libraries of Love" will be used to buy magazine subscriptions and/or books for each facility. If you are collecting books, please find a way to turn them to cash instead of trying to find a facility that will accept them. We have found that their require-

ments are quite strict and most books submitted so far do not meet those requests.

Please continue to send funds to support our homeless or potentially homeless women veterans. We receive requests weekly to help women veterans with security deposit, rent, furniture, clothing, etc. Although we are focusing on women veterans, we need to take care of all veterans, especially those in our own communities. Offer to take them to appointments, cook them a meal, or visit them while their main caregiver takes time for themselves. If the VA facility near you is hosting a stand down, offer to assist, with time or donations. Don't forget to get involved with local homeless shelters.

We also hope to increase donations to the Veterans Creative Arts Festival. A sleeve was designed by National that fits on a Pringles can so you can solicit funds from the community. Visit the National website to print a copy of this sleeve.

"Ride 2 Recovery" (R2R) is a bicycle program that helps injured veterans over-

come obstacles they face from the loss of limbs, sight and hearing. Please volunteer or help with fundraising at R2R events.

Camp American Legion expanded its programs this last year and will continue to host special weeks for women veterans and families of "fallen veterans." The Wisconsin Vet Center is planning a Veterans Couples week in 2012. Camp is also getting more involved with the Wisconsin National Guard and Reserve. Please continue sending donations so the ALA can support the veterans that use this facility.

Many ALA programs support our returning servicemen and women; donations to the Fisher House, "Salute to Hospitalized Veterans" programs, and volunteering at the VA facilities or outreach clinics. Continue all your hard work through Home and Field Service.

If you have questions about any of our programs, please call me. May you and our veterans have a very blessed and healthy New Year.

2010-2011 National Awards

The following 2010-2011 National awards were presented or acknowledged during the 2011 Fall Information Forum:

2011 SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP
Wisconsin Nominee Elyse Lawson

AMERICANISM

National Americanism Essay, Class I, Central Division Winner – Kayla Cain
National Americanism Essay, Class IV, Central Division Winner – Tyler Niebur

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

Largest Individual Contributor in Central Division – Rose M. Wenger

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Junior Volunteer of the Year for Central Division – Caitlin Rosemeyer
Senior Volunteer of the Year for Central Division – Estelle Laub

HISTORY

Certificate of Participation for Submitting a Department History – Teresa Isensee
"Where are They Now?" Essay - Nellie DeBaker

JUNIOR ACTIVITY

Best Unit Junior Activities Program in Central Division – Schlender Polly Unit 239, Tigerton

POPPY POSTER CONTEST

Best Poppy Poster in Class VI (Grade 12) in Central Division – Kellee Orzechowski

NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION PRESS ASSOCIATION

1st Place Award in Best Papers Competition for Auxiliary News – April Kollmorgen

MEMBERSHIP

Department Reached 75% Goal by February 1, 2011
Joyce Endres, Chairman

"Service Not Self Award" [three Units received awards]

Trier Puddy Unit #75 (Fond du Lac), Burton Koppang Unit #81 (Maus-ton), and Unit #401 (Cambria)

Department of Wisconsin [32 members received "Recruit 3" Pin Awards]

Judy Alford, Barbara Boeck, Jean M. Booth, Lynn A. Cartier, Linda J. Cason, Alma M. Chwala, Carol L. Cowen, Elizabeth Dougherty, Lois Dunn, Cora Gavigan, Debra Goosens, Emma Harter, Kathy Jo Huppert, Rachel A. Johnston, Pamela Klenner, Bonnie Knaub, Genevieve Lenser, Connie Lindloff, Charleen Lovejoy, Amy Luft, Ruth Mengsol, Nancy Osmolak, Mary L. Petot, Mary K. Petrie, Sharon Pillsbury, Mary Rogge, Linda Swangstu, Sandra Wellens, Danie A. Wilson, Shirley Wilson, Mary L. Winder, Margaret Wozniak

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

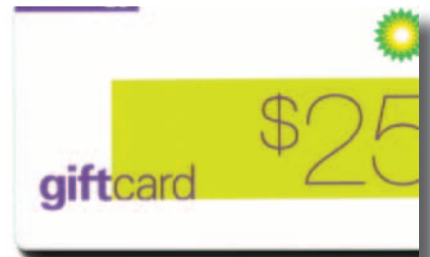
Unit Member of the Year – Linda Wieck

VETERAN AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION:

Veterans Creative Arts Festival (Silver Award) - Department of Wisconsin (President Florence Wasley)

Featured Donation Item

Camp Director Kevin Moshea has requested donations of \$25 BP Gas Cards to support Camp American Legion's mission and our veterans. Due to the cost of this item, he suggests this 2-month donation could cover both December and January. **Do not send these donations to ALA Headquarters.**



Donations should be sent to: Camp American Legion
8529 County Road D • Lake Tomahawk, WI 54539

November 2011 Calendar Raffle Fundraiser

	\$ Amt	Stub #		
1	15.00	14187	Bonnie Mengel	Iron Ridge WI 53035
2	15.00	39947	Brenda Kendall	Montello WI 53949
3	15.00	46654	Harold Parker	Owen WI 54460
4	15.00	49173	Dolores Kahl	Mt Horeb WI 53572
5	15.00	40630	Ardis Swenson	River Falls WI 54022
6	25.00	19088	ALA Post #541	Northfield WI 54635
7	15.00	19336	Rita Lycke	Melrose WI 54642
8	15.00	16350	Frances Mangan	Kiel WI 53042
9	15.00	45029	Matthew Kirby	Oshkosh WI 54902
10	1,000.00	21295	Lorraine Holl	Abrams WI 54101
11	750.00	04515	Chuck Anderson	Rice Lake WI 54868
12	15.00	24505	Erika Mason	Stanley WI 54768
13	25.00	27719	Mary Malewski	Phoenix AZ 85028
14	15.00	14702	Susan Turowski	Grafton WI 53024
15	15.00	05686	Michael Dalton	La Crosse WI 54601
16	15.00	05288	Mrs M L Peterson	Wausau WI 54401
17	15.00	26765	Marcella Nohl	Sheboygan Falls WI 53085
18	15.00	24731	Dolores Sheffer	Humbird WI 54746
19	15.00	10515	Sandra Wendling	La Crosse WI 54601
20	25.00	37383	Scott Meland	Harshaw WI 54529
21	15.00	18745	Marion Averbeck	Buffalo City WI 54622
22	15.00	17926	Shirley Ann Hillyer	Woodruff WI 54568
23	15.00	53407	Daniel Jakubowski	Milwaukee WI 53219
24	15.00	16887	Wayne Horman	Port Washington WI 53074
25	15.00	06920	Cheyenne Keding	Allenton WI 53002
26	15.00	14226	Kaylynn D'Amico	Hartford WI 53027
27	25.00	10474	Nancy Kaump	Milwaukee WI 53217
28	15.00	23263	Vivian Burr	Eau Claire WI 54701
29	15.00	49173	Dolores Kahl	Mt Horeb WI 53572
30	15.00	51535	Dave Justmann	Juneau WI 53039
	2,210.00			

Please note – If not cashed within 90 days, the 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.

We would like to thank the American Legion Family for their prayers, notes and concerns. One never knows what challenges one faces as we mature. I guess we are tested each day by the Good Lord, but He only gives you what you can handle.

Thank you all,
Rose & Fritz Wenger

(Rose & Fritz Wenger suffered a chimney fire prior to Thanksgiving)

Oconto Falls Unit 302 Presents Awards



Oconto Falls ALA Unit 302 presented awards to local people who provided outstanding public service that benefitted the community, state and nation and two 40-year Legionnaires. Pictured are honorees and American Legion Family officers: (standing L - R) Fire Chief Tim Magnin, Terri & David Witt of Witt's Piggly Wiggly, Kingdom Come Food Pantry Managers Joyce & Wayne Greetan, Oconto County Reporter Office Manager Colleen Messenger, Terry Daniels of Oconto County Times Herald, ALA Past National Historian/Unit 302 VP Loretta Shellman, ALA Unit 302 President Ann Lotter and Department Vice Commander Roy Helms, (seated L - R) Kingdom Come Board President Diane Nichols, 40-year Legionnaires Bill Grady & Fred Peterson, EMT's Laurie & Bob Parisey, ALA 9th District President Cora Gavigan and ALA Department President Joan Chwala. Absent from the photo are Steve Witt and Police Chief Mike Roberts.