



Auxiliary Newsletter

September 2026

Issue 14

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From the President's Desk

Happy Fall

The Department and National Conventions are over for another year – now is the time to roll up our sleeves and put what we heard/learned into action.

I know that many of you will be busy updating your bylaws and standing rules in the next few months to capture the new membership opportunities as approved at this years national convention.

Speaking of the national convention, while sitting there listening to the wonderful things that units are doing throughout the U.S. – I know that we have many of those types of initiatives occurring within District 2 units. The difference being that they took the time to submit the paperwork in order to be recognized. My hope for this year is that you look at one of your programs and submit the paperwork to be recognized. This is great PR for your Unit, the District and the Department. Who knows, your unit may even make the big screen at next year's National Convention.

Membership should also be on the top of everyone's mind as the goal is to complete membership renewals by December 31st. Don't be afraid to reach out to members to get the ball rolling so this can happen. Also, look at new ways that you can attract new members to your unit.

Kathy Olson

Dates to Remember

September - National Suicide Prevention Month

September 11, 2026 – Patriot Day

September 16, 2026 – American Legion Day (1919)

September 18, 2026 – Air Force's Birthday (1947)

September 18, 2026 – National POW/MIA Recognition Day

September 27, 2026 – Gold Star Mother's Day

Chaplain's Corner

Natalia Genovesi-King
District 2 Chaplain

As September begins, we are reminded that our freedom has been secured through the courage, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment of generations of Americans. On Patriot Day, September 11, we pause to remember the innocent lives lost, honor the first responders who answered the call without hesitation, and recognize the service members who have defended our nation in the years since. May we continue to stand united in gratitude, resilience, and love of country.



This month also brings National POW/MIA Recognition Day, observed on the third Friday of September, when we honor those who were prisoners of war and those who remain missing in action. Their courage and the sacrifices of their families will never be forgotten. We also recognize Gold Star Mothers and Families Day on the last Sunday of September, paying tribute to the families who have endured the profound loss of a loved one in military service. Their strength, devotion, and enduring legacy remind us that the cost of freedom extends far beyond the battlefield.

As members of the American Legion Auxiliary Second District, let us renew our commitment to serving veterans, military families, and our communities with compassion and patriotism. May we never take our freedoms for granted and may we always strive to be worthy of the sacrifices made by our nation's heroes and those who love them.

Heavenly Father, we Thank You for the blessings of liberty and for the brave men and women who have defended it. Comfort the families of the fallen, strengthen those who continue to bear the wounds of war, and watch over our service members, veterans and their loved ones. Help us to live with grateful hearts, serve with humble hands, and honor the memory of those who gave so much for our nation. May Your peace, grace, and protection remain with America always. Amen.



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National Conference Recap

The 105th American Legion Auxiliary National Convention was held August 28 – September 3, 2026, in Louisville, Kentucky.

There were several accomplishments by Wisconsin prior to and during the convention. They were –

- Wisconsin Junior program was recognized for the grant they received to purchase kayaks for Camp American Legion
- Wisconsin ALA Harvey Funk Unit 494 won the National President's Award for Excellence
- Past Department President Sue Hembrook received the Merit Medallion of Excellence Award
- Department President Amy Luft was inducted
- Department of Wisconsin Public Relations Program received the National ALA - Outstanding Public Relations Program Department Award for Central Division.

There were also resolutions and changes to the National Constitution that were voted on. They are –

- Resolution 1 – Resolution to Support Gender Neutral Eligibility Language
 - The 2026 American Legion Auxiliary National Convention Delegates supported the Legion proposed gender-neutral eligibility language to read as follows:
 - Section 2. Membership in The American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to:
 - (1) Grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of separation of members of The American Legion; and
 - (2) Grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of separation of all service members who served in either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918 and any time after December 7, 1941 who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge;
 - (3) Grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of separation of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941, who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during either eligibility period and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge.

Other Constitution amendments were either defeated or withdrawn.

There were also breakout sessions that members attended. C&B Case Scenarios: Applying Governing Documents in Real Situations; Leadership That Lasts: Mentoring, Supporting, and Growing Future Leaders; Warrior Beat Healing Drum Circle; Wreaths Across America: Honoring Service Through Mission-Focused Community Engagement; Navigating the New ALAMIS; and Funding Mission Impact: Veteran Projects Fund Grant Writing Workshop. Those who attended breakout sessions found them helpful and informational.

Elections were held for National officers. Dr. Coral May Grout from the Department of Massachusetts was elected to the position of National President.

This convention is a great way to see how other states are following the mission of *Service, Not Self*.

FALL CONFERENCE

County Fall meetings

The County Fall meetings will be held on the following dates and times:

- **Columbia** – October 24, 2026 – Pardeeville Senior Center, 113 Industrial Dr, Pardeeville
- **Dodge** – September 26, 2026 – Lomira
- **Jefferson** – October 21, 2026 – Waterloo
- **Ozaukee** – October 17, 2026 – St John Lutheran Church, 824 Fredonia Ave, Fredonia
- **Sheboygan** –
- **Washington** -

Leadership

Sandy Mack
District 2 Chair



What does leadership mean to you? Do you mentor other members? Do you teach programs of the ALA? Are you understanding, compassionate?

The purpose of the Leadership program is to develop and prepare knowledgeable and capable leaders to carry on the growth and success of the Auxiliary by promoting activities and resources that educate, motivate and mentor members of all ages and at all levels of the organization.

What does leadership not include?

On **October 10th from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Mayville post**, I will be presenting a program on leadership, what it entails and what it doesn't entail. Other topics will be included also.

Join me for an interesting morning of learning, sharing, and caring.

Wisconsin American Legion College

Bob Shappell

Dean, WI Legion College

Your Wisconsin American Legion College returns with a slate of Fall courses that will lead to you earning the WI Legion College graduate pin - and become a more effective leader and member in our Legion Family. Yes, **all Legion Family members are eligible** to attend our College courses.

The course line-up is:

Basic Course – Sep 19-20 – 9AM to Noon both days

Basic Course – Sep 23-24 – 6-9PM each night

Intermediate Course – Oct 14-15 – 6-9PM each night

Intermediate Course – Oct 31-Nov 1 – 9AM to Noon both days

Advanced Course – Nov 7-8 – 9AM to noon (second day slightly longer)

Advanced Course – Dec 9-10 – 6-9PM (second night slightly longer)

Please follow the Wisconsin American Legion College Facebook page, the WI Legion Family Facebook page, and the Department website for announcements.

Cost to attend is \$15 per course. Sign up on the Department website at <https://wilegion.org/legion-college>

Questions – contact Bob Shappell, Dean of the College, at wilegioncollege@gmail.com

Here's a great deal for those who enroll early!

Be the first from your district to sign up for the Basic Course and earn a Dean's Scholarship, which means your \$15 tuition will be refunded. This applies to the first Legionnaire, the first ALA member, **and** the first SAL member from each district.

Amazon Shopping

The national organization has partnered with SmileAssociate to turn everyday Amazon shopping into donations to the ALA – **at no additional cost to the shopper!** Shoppers use a unique link that will take them directly to their Amazon account so they can start shopping. 1.5% of the total sale will automatically be paid to the ALA entity you select on a quarterly basis. Who shops on Amazon? Who wants to support the ALA or ALA Badger Girls State? Simply click on one of the links below and your purchases will turn into profit for ALA-Wisconsin or ALA Badger Girls State – but you can only pick one organization per purchase.

[Amazon: Donate to ALA-WI](#)

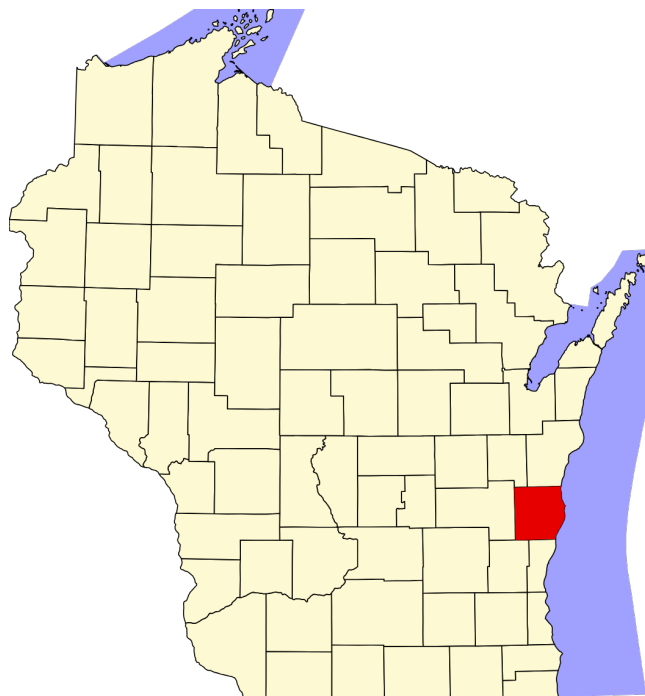
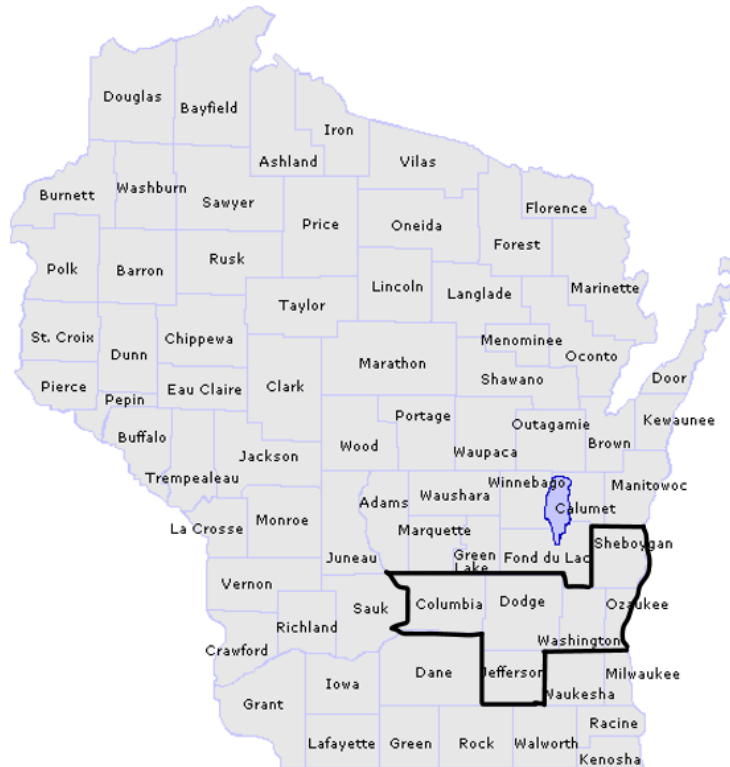
[Amazon: Donate to ALABGS](#)

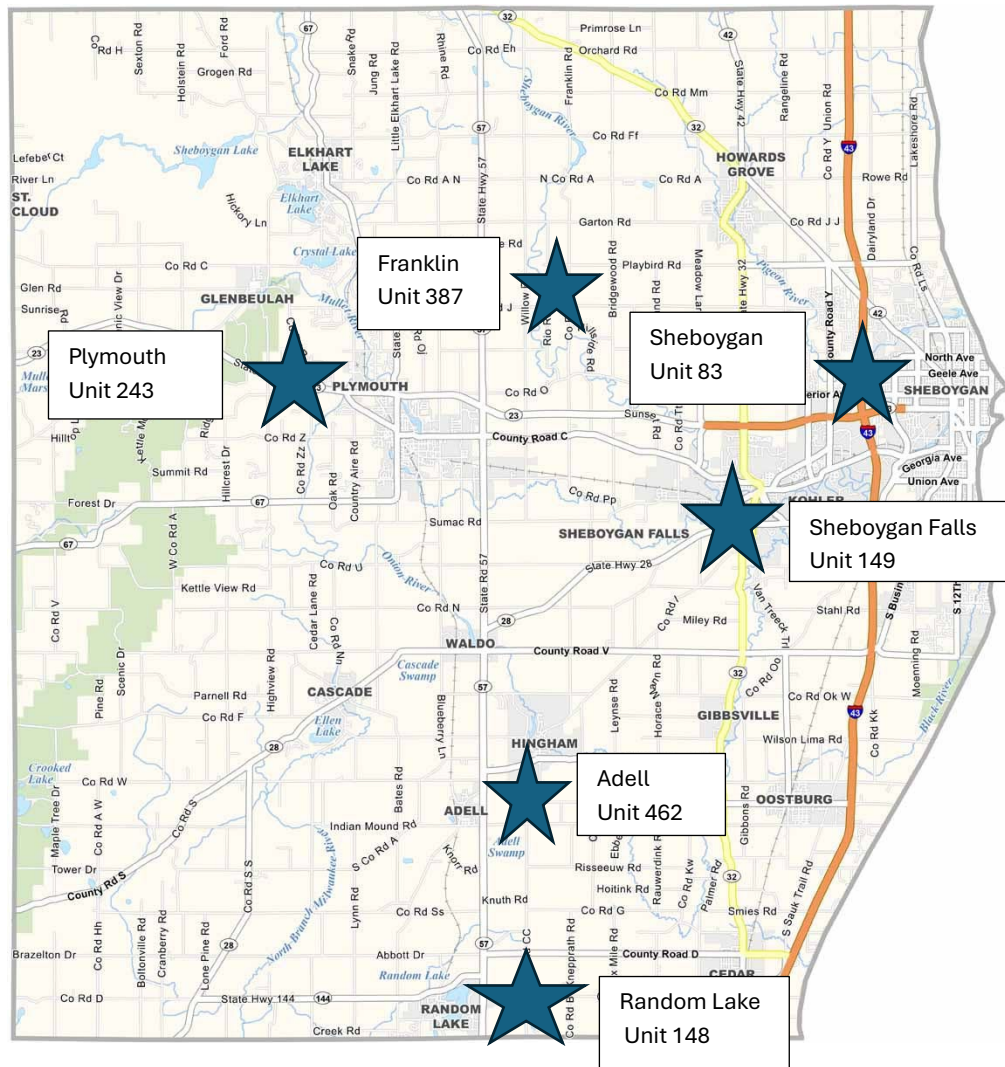
Shoppers do not need to be Auxiliary members. Anyone who shops on Amazon can support this great cause! Please share this message with EVERYONE within your reach of distribution!

Thank you for your support!

Counties

District 2 is made up of 6 counties in the state of Wisconsin. Each month we will highlight one of the counties and the Units within that county. This month we are highlighting Sheboygan County.





Sheboygan county is a county located in south-east Wisconsin. There are 6 Units in the county.

The ALA County Executive Board is – President Cheryl Kruschke, Vice President Danie Wilson, Secretary Judie Kinate and Treasurer Cindy Faller.

The Unit Presidents are – Beverly Hinz, Adell; Shannon Wynveen, Franklin; Linda Johnson, Plymouth; Rhonda Brock, Random Lake; Danie Wilson, Sheboygan; and Judie Kinate, Sheboygan Falls.



Membership

This year's membership theme is ***Wings of Honor – Helping our Heroes Take Flight.***

Goal for the Department is 100% of memberships paid by December 31, 2026.

Membership Awards are as follows for this year –

- **Individual Awards**

- *Carry On Award Recruit 1 Award* – Members who recruit a NEW or REJOIN and EXPIRED member for 2027 will receive a luggage tag. Only one entry per recruiter. Entry forms must be received at Department PRIOR to May 28, 2027.
- *Frequent Flyer Recruiting Award* – The top three recruiters will receive a cash prize of: 1st place - \$100, 2nd place - \$75, 3rd place - \$25. The Frequent Flyer Award entry form must be received at Department PRIOR to May 28, 2027.
- *2027: RECRUIT/REJOIN 10 Award* – National will award a special gift selected by the 2027 National Membership Chairman to Members who recruit and/or rejoin 10 junior or senior Auxiliary members for the 2027 membership year. Rejoins must not have paid membership dues since 2023 or earlier. Only one entry per recruiter. The 2027: RECRUIT/REJOIN 10 entry form must be submitted to Department Headquarters PRIOR to May 28, 2027.

- **Unit “Prepare for Take-Off” Awards**

- Membership dues must be at Department Headquarters PRIOR to the goal date to be considered eligible. Units must have the 2026-2027 Unit Officer Form submitted to Department with ALL listed Officers' dues paid to be eligible.

%	# OF WINNERS	AMOUNT	DATE
75%	1 Unit	\$100.00	Sept. 30, 2026
85%	1 Unit	\$150.00	Oct. 31, 2026
95%	1 Unit	\$200.00	Nov. 30, 2026
100%	1 Unit	\$250.00	Dec. 31, 2026

- **FINAL DESTINATION AWARD**

100%	1 entry for each Unit	December 31, 2026
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- 1 winner picked at random will receive: 2 paid Department Convention registrations, 1 paid room for a 2-night stay in the convention hotel, recognition on stage during convention, and 2 passes to the Commander's party on Saturday night for the 2027 Department Convention.

Officers need to pay their Unit dues by September 30, 2026.

Dues can either be paid over the phone by calling National direct @ 317-569-4570 (Mon.-Fri. 7:00 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.), online by logging on to the National website at www.ALAFORVeterans.org, or they can pay their membership chairperson at their Unit.

2027 Membership Goals

		UNIT	CITY	2027 GOAL
02	Columbia	0062	Columbus	16
		0187	Wisconsin Dells	38
		0208	Rio	33
		0215	Pardeeville	37
		0216	Lodi	37
		0271	Poynette	23
		0401	Cambria	47
		Total		231
	Dodge	0015	Juneau	56
		0069	Mayville	83
		0146	Beaver Dam	74
		0157	Horicon	85
		0270	Theresa	26
		0347	Lomira	31
		0420	Hustisford	15
		0521	Fox Lake	99
		Total		472
	Jefferson	0067	Lake Mills	46
		0164	Jefferson	31
		0166	Fort Atkinson	53
		0189	Watertown	78
		0233	Waterloo	41
		0305	Johnson Creek	26
		Total		275
	Ozaukee	0082	Port Washington	73
		0288	Cedarburg	152
		0355	Grafton	169
		0410	Fredonia	18
		0412	Belgium	28
		0457	Mequon-Thiensville	39
		0470	Saukville	135
		Total		614
	Sheboygan	0083	Sheboygan	34
		0145	Random Lake	13
		0149	Sheboygan Falls	30
		0243	Plymouth	127
		0387	Franklin	43
		0462	Adell	12
		Total		259
	Washington	0036	West Bend	24
		0321	Germantown	35
		0384	Kewaskum	78
		0483	Allenton	91
		0486	Jackson	76
		0522	Hubertus	27
		Total		331
	Total			2182

The goal is based off the unit's 2025 PAID membership as of 7/31/2025 x 1%.