



May 2026

Issue 10

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From the President's Desk

May is a month of celebration. (Mother's Day, and graduations) and also a time for remembrance (Poppies, flags on gravesites, and parades).

Memorial Day is a solemn time, where we can reflect on those that paid the ultimate price for our freedoms that we take for granted.

There have been many men and women who have lost their lives over the past 250 years serving their country.

Did you know that the average age of enlistment is under 22 years old? What were you doing at 22?

God Bless those who served our country so we can enjoy the freedoms that we have.

Kathy Olson

Dates to Remember

May – Month of the Military Caregiver

May – Military Appreciation Month

May 8, 2026 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day

May 10, 2026 – VE Day

May 13, 2026 – Children of Fallen Patriots Day

May 16, 2026 – Armed Forces Day

May 22, 2026 – National Poppy Day

July 16-19, 2026 – Department Convention, Appleton, WI

August 28-September 3, 2026 – National Convention, Louisville, KY

Chaplain's Corner

District 2 Chaplain

Natalia Genovesi-King

MAY

Honor the Fallen, Remember the Sacrifice – Memorial Day Is More Than a Long Weekend

Memorial Day stands as one of the most solemn and significant days in our national consciousness. It is a sacred moment to honor the courageous men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom. Their selfless service is etched into the soul of our nation, and their legacy commands our deepest respect and unwavering gratitude.

On this Memorial Day – and every day – we are called to a higher duty: to live in a way that honors their sacrifice by upholding the principles for which they gave their lives. Freedom. Justice. Unity. This day is not only for remembrance, but also for reflection and renewal of purpose.

President Abraham Lincoln, in his second Inaugural Address during the dark days of the Civil War, urged us “to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan... to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace.” His words echo powerfully today. As we bow our heads in remembrance, let us also lift our hearts in commitment to support the families left behind and to pursue the peace and liberty their loved ones died to protect.

Let this day be more than a tribute. Let it be a promise.

We pray:

Dear Heavenly Father,

On this hallowed Memorial Day, we gather before You-our hearts heavy with sorrow yet lifted by gratitude. As a community joined in faith and remembrance, we pause not out of ritual, but out of reverence-for those who gave their last breath so we might breathe in freedom.

We remember the brave-young and old, men and women, known and unknown-who stepped forward when called, who stood in harm's way, who never came back. Their lives were pages torn too soon from the story of this world, their sacrifice a sacred offering we can never fully repay.

Some fell on distant soil, never to return home. Others carried their scars in silence, the battles echoing long after the war. Yet all of them bore witness to something eternal: the power of selfless love, the weight of duty, and the price of freedom.

Today, we hold their names close – not spoken aloud but etched into the quiet corners of our souls. You, Lord, know every name. You saw every final moment. You hold every broken heart. So, we trust-fully-that not one sacrifice has gone unseen in the courts of Heaven.

Comfort those who mourn with a grief that does not fade. Heal those whose wounds are still tender. And be near-so near-to every heart that carries the ache of loss.

We honor them, Lord. And we remember.
Amen



Get to know your District 2 Officers

District 2 is made up of 6 Counties, 40 Units and 2,114 members (2025 paid memberships). The area ranges from Wisconsin Dells, Fort Atkinson, to Sheboygan and all the area in between. It is a far-reaching District. There are 9 officers that lead the District from all different Units. Let's get to know a little about these 9 officers. This month highlighting...

Eunice Seering is our 2nd District **Sergeant-at-Arms**.

Eunice has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 69 in Mayville for 48 years.

She is the 2nd Vice President and Historian within her unit. She has also been the 2nd District Sergeant-at-Arms for 8 years. She enjoys displaying flags for other Conferences and Conventions, along with getting to know other Legion members. Eunice recently became the Dodge County President where she is involved with attending meetings at eight other units and helping where needed.

Eunice actively visits Veterans in three of her local long-term care facilities. She provides them with care packages, such as cards, treat bags, along with donations to their wish list. She strives to go above and beyond with extra special treats on Veteran's Day to show our appreciation to our Veterans for serving.

Eunice is eligible for membership thru the service of her husband Randy, a Vietnam Veteran and Purple Heart recipient. She has 3 children, a son and two daughters. Her daughters are currently active members of the Legion Family. Eunice is proud to be an Auxiliary Member supporting Veteran's, Active Military and their families.



MEMORIAL DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



Department Convention

Department Convention will be held July 16-19, 2026, at the Hilton Paper Valley in Appleton, WI.

This years Honored Guest is Past Department President, Diana Sirovina. She served as Department President from 2012-2013.

Basket raffles will be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Units and Counties are encouraged to donate baskets for this raffle. All proceeds will go towards Department President Sue Hembrook's special project, Camp American Legion.

On Thursday, registration starts at 11:00 a.m. The Headquarters Offices opens at 2:00 p.m. where you could pick up your membership packet, if you indicated that you would be picking them up at convention.

On Friday, there is a processional of Districts at 8:30 a.m. Then the general session starts at 8:45. During this general session, the members that are running for a Department position will discuss their eligibility.

On Saturday, voting will commence at 9:00 a.m. and installation of 2026-2027 Department Officers and District Presidents will occur from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is a Past Commanders Club Party with Entertainment that evening. The entertainment will be Dueling Pianos.

Please plan to attend as this is a very informative and exciting convention.



**Taking care of business at
ALA National Convention**

National Convention

The National Convention will be held August 28-September 3, 2026, in Louisville, KY.

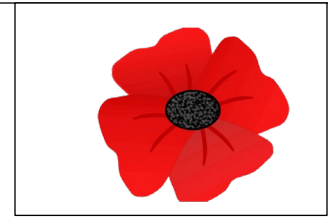
More information will be coming on this convention in the coming months.

Please consider attending.

Poppy Program

Maggie Geiger

2nd District Program Chair



The poem “In Flanders Fields” was written by John McCrae. He was stationed in Ypres, Belgium, also known as Flanders. Looking upon all the makeshift graves, with poppies blooming everywhere. McCrae wrote the poem “In Flanders Fields” in 1915. In 1918, Monia Michael wrote the poem “We Shall Keep the Faith”. Monia was also known as the Poppy Lady.

These two (2) poems have been used by units throughout the American Legion Auxiliary as a way to raise awareness and link us to our mission in the eyes of the public.

There are read-aloud videos that might be fun to play at a unit meeting. Even though they are listed for kids, it is a great way to hear the poems, and remember the sacrifices made, and that are continually being made by our service members.

You can find these videos by going to your Google search and typing “In Flanders Field” read aloud for kids, or “The Poppy Lady”, which are listed as short YouTube videos.

As we all prepare to distribute poppies and participate in the National Poppy Day on Friday, May 22, 2026. Take a moment to look at a poppy, made by the hands of a veteran in WI. They are not made for recognition, but for remembrance of their fellow service members, who never made it home.

Here are a few ideas to help your Poppy distribution go smoothly:

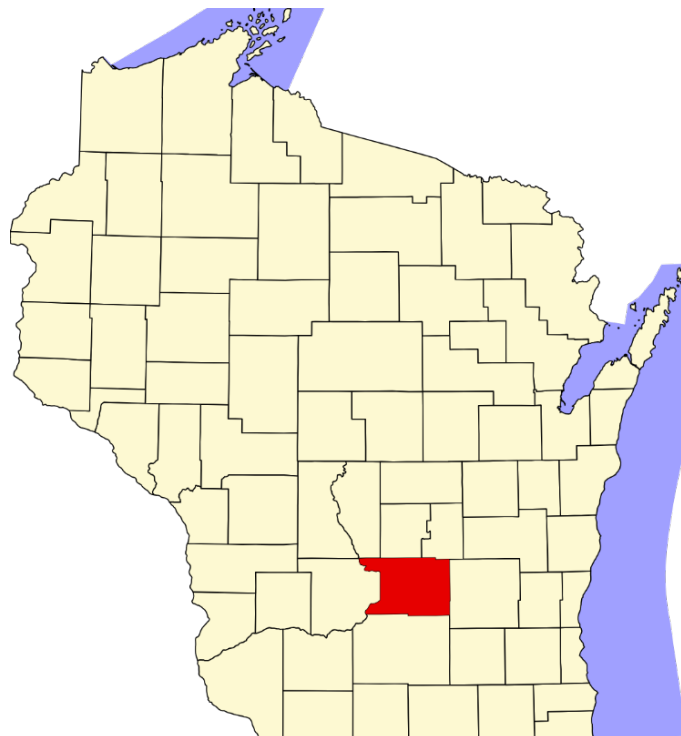
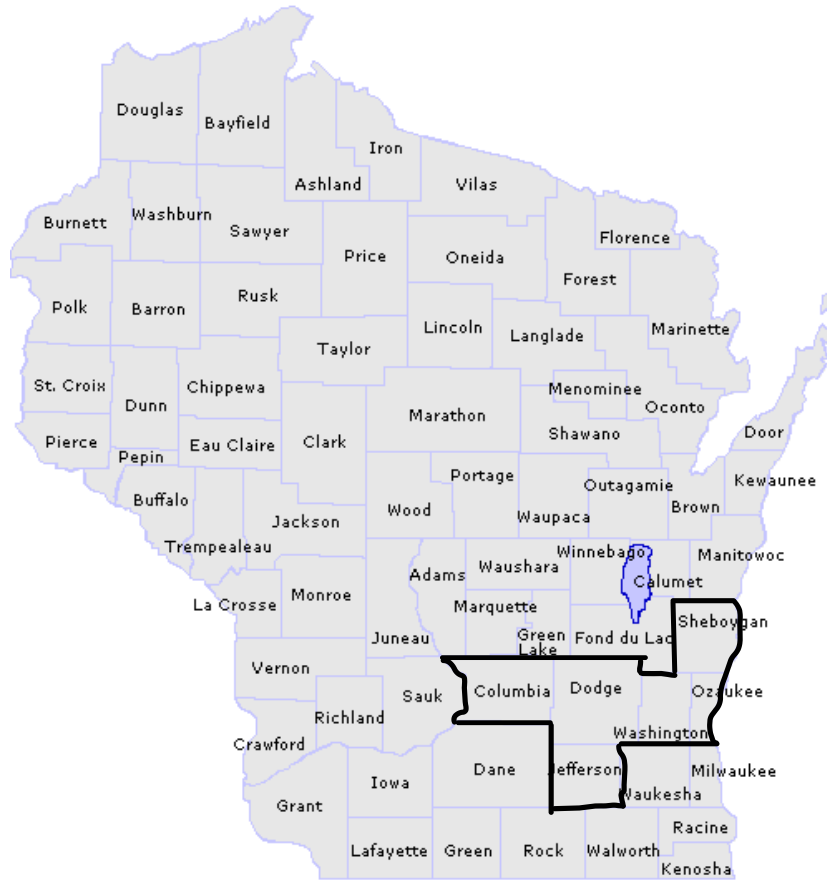
- Announce Poppy distributions for your communities through newsletters, newspapers, Facebook, letters to the editor, and display your Poppy Proclamation in a business window or library.
- Promote the Poppy Program and to increase poppy revenue.
- Contact local business for permission to distribute poppies on their premises. Be sure you have permission for liability purposes; in some instances, permits might be required.
- Help local schools organize poppy drives. Make the drive competitive. Give a citation to the class raising the most money during their poppy drive.
- Wear a poppy and your ALA branding to promote conversation and interest.
- Distribute poppies with the entire Legion Family.
- Educate your community about how the funds collected help veterans.

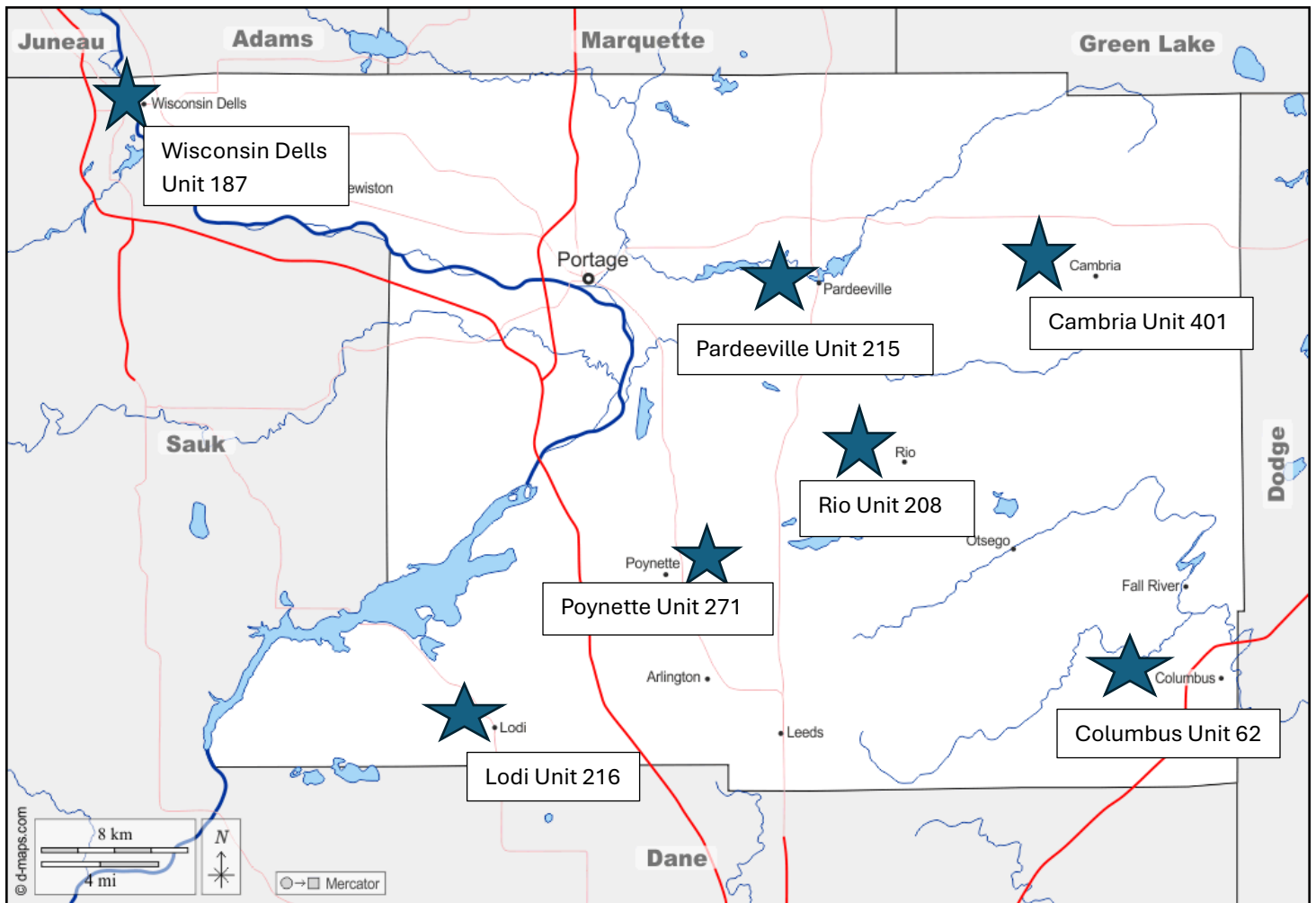
Memorial Day is a day of “Remembrance”, not a celebration. We remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep us free.

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

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 Columbia County.

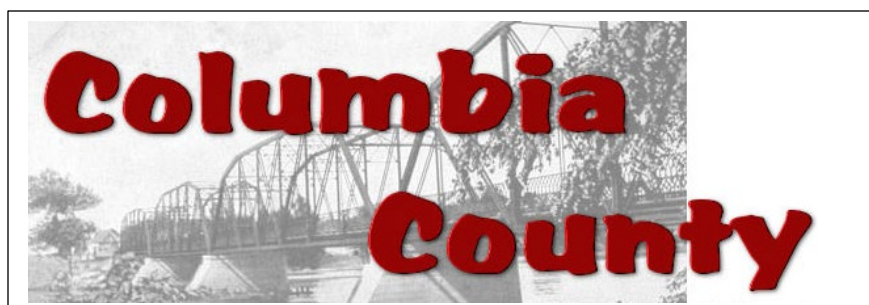


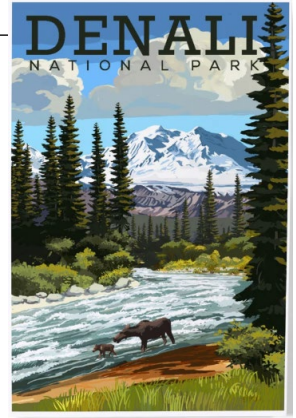


Columbia county is a county located in south-central Wisconsin. There are 7 Units in the county.

The ALA County Executive Board is – President Barbara Sigmund, Wisconsin Dells; 1st Vice President Kathy Olson, Rio; 2nd Vice President Jean Sennhenn, Columbus; Treasurer Mitzi Manthey, Pardeeville; Secretary Kristy Wakeman, Rio, Chaplain Marcella Woodward, Poynette and Bobbie Goodman, Sgt-at-Arms, Pardeeville.

The Unit Presidents are – Jan Williams, Cambria; Jean Sennhenn, Columbus; Kay McKenna, Lodi, Erin Salmon, Pardeeville, Heather Holy, Poynette, Kathy Olson, Rio and Susie Sagert, Wisconsin Dells.





Membership

REMINDER - County Presidents contact your Units and Unit Presidents contact your members to keep the membership numbers rolling.

This year's membership theme is "National Park Service".

The 2nd District's National Park is **Denali**. Membership will be calculated for each Unit, County and District.

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.

Reminder you can still pay dues for 2026 and add new members.

Membership Goals – Denali Style

The email has gone out to the Unit President showing each Units progress. You will see the following animal when you are at the corresponding membership percentage:

Moose	20%
Caribou	40%
Dall Sheep	60%
Grizzly Bears	80%
Wolves	100%

Columbia County has 3 Units that have seen all 5 animals, 3 Units that have seen 4 animals and 1 that has seen 3 animals.

Dodge County has 7 Units that have seen 4 animals and 1 Unit that has seen 3 animals.

Jefferson County has 2 Units that have seen all 5 animals, and 4 Units that have seen 4 animals.

Ozaukee County has 3 Units that have seen all 5 animals and 4 Units that have seen 4 animals.

Sheboygan County has 4 Units that have seen all 5 animals, 1 Unit that has seen 4 animals, and 1 Units that have seen 3 animals.

Washington County has 2 Units that have seen all 5 animals, 3 Units that have seen 4 animals, and 1 Unit that has seen 3 animals.

Who will be the next Unit to see all 5 animals? Your next animal may be waiting right around the corner.

Membership as of 4/21/2026

100% UNIT		2027 Unit Dues Billing form needed		2026 Membership processed as of 04/21/26				
		UNIT	CITY	2026 GOAL	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT
02	Columbia	0062	Columbus	16	0	13	13	81.25%
		0187	Wisconsin Dells	38	1	36	37	97.37%
		0208	Rio	32	0	32	32	100.00%
		0215	Pardeeville	39	3	32	35	89.74%
		0216	Lodi	40	3	28	31	77.50%
		0271	Poynette	25	0	28	28	112.00%
		0401	Cambria	48	3	45	48	100.00%
		Total			238	10	214	224
	Dodge	0015	Juneau	67	4	43	47	70.15%
		0069	Mayville	85	2	78	80	94.12%
		0146	Beaver Dam	78	6	63	69	88.46%
		0157	Horicon	86	6	67	73	84.88%
		0270	Theresa	30	6	18	24	80.00%
		0347	Lomira	34	1	28	29	85.29%
		0420	Hustisford	17	0	15	15	88.24%
		0521	Fox Lake	98	3	91	94	95.92%
	Total			495	28	403	431	87.07%
	Jefferson	0067	Lake Mills	51	0	49	49	96.08%
		0164	Jefferson	33	0	28	28	84.85%
		0166	Fort Atkinson	52	2	50	52	100.00%
		0189	Watertown	82	7	67	74	90.24%
		0233	Waterloo	39	7	32	39	100.00%
		0305	Johnson Creek	27	0	25	25	92.59%
		Total			284	16	251	267
	Ozaukee	0082	Port Washington	70	4	70	74	105.71%
		0288	Cedarburg	159	16	150	166	104.40%
		0355	Grafton	155	11	131	142	91.61%
		0410	Fredonia	18	0	19	19	105.56%
		0412	Belgium	31	0	26	26	83.87%
0457		Mequon-Thiensville	53	5	47	52	98.11%	
0470		Saukville	155	2	124	126	81.29%	
Total				641	38	567	605	94.38%
Sheboygan	0083	Sheboygan	32	10	25	35	109.38%	
	0145	Random Lake	20	1	19	20	100.00%	
	0149	Sheboygan Falls	28	0	29	29	103.57%	
	0243	Plymouth	135	10	108	118	87.41%	
	0387	Franklin	53	4	33	37	69.81%	
	0462	Adell	12	0	12	12	100.00%	
	Total			280	25	226	251	89.64%
Washington	0036	West Bend	32	4	26	30	93.75%	
	0321	Germantown	39	13	26	39	100.00%	
	0384	Kewaskum	75	18	56	74	98.67%	
	0483	Allenton	88	10	70	80	90.91%	
	0486	Jackson	82	3	60	63	76.83%	
	0522	Hubertus	32	1	36	37	115.63%	
	Total			348	49	274	323	92.82%
Total			2286	166	1935	2101	91.91%	