

# 1st District



## District officers

### President:

Crystal Shaw  
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### 1st Vice - Membership:

Carol Brady  
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### 2nd Vice- VA&R, C &Y:

Mary Kohler  
608-676-4774  
9023 E. Wyman Dr  
Clinton WI 53525

### Secretary:

Pamela Massman  
414-526-9100  
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### Treasurer:

Jill Gust  
262-719-7280  
[tsugj1@gmail.com](mailto:tsugj1@gmail.com)

## *"May your Journey always Lead you Home"*

December 2024

A note from your District President

Congratulations on working our programs. I've visited several more unit meetings and events this month and love the excitement. I'm scheduled to visit Waukesha county and Kenosha County meetings this week and in December. Please keep sharing the events, I always try to make events when possible. If I can't attend leaders from your district are reached out to as well to try to attend. We are coming together in the District and I want the momentum to keep building.

### *District Camp Trip*

At Fall conference you shared ideas, thoughts, and interest in getting to know your Legion District Family through events outside of just a post meeting or event. I listened and have scheduled a camping weekend open to all District 1 legion Family. You must be a member to come. Your kiddos are of course welcome. We can kayak, hike, scavenger hunt, and just sit around a fire with comradery. I have created an event on our District Facebook page. Please let me know if you would like to attend. The cost of the campsite is on each family that decides to attend. There are discounts for the group campground that has room for 30 people. If we have enough campers I will book the group site. This is why its important to reach out and let me know. If you are not a camper but want to come for Saturday I will be putting together fun games, events, potluck sign-up, for everyone to enjoy and non-campers to go home and enjoy the comforts of their own bed bug-free. It will be at the Richard Bong state Park Campground July 25th-27th. No campsites are booked yet as I would like to know how many are attending first.

Don't forget to check out our national website for fantastic webinars on each program. You can sign-up for the classes. Some are only 20 minutes long and are pre recorded.

***Please make sure to check out our Facebook Group for many upcoming events around the District. They include meat raffles, smelt fries, Santa events, wine tastings and many more! Let's help each other out!***

### *Wreaths Across America*

For those who would like to attend and participate in Wreaths Across America, It will be Saturday December 14th. A special ceremony will take place at the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery at 11:00AM( 21731 Spring St, Union Grove, WI 53182). I am not able to attend this year, but I know our District will be well represented with other units and leaders' participation.



**Chaplain:**

Joann Dewart  
262-903-4663  
[joanndewart@gmail.com](mailto:joanndewart@gmail.com)

**Parliamentarian:**

Sabrina Stapleton  
262-366-1628  
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**Sergeant at Arms:**

Sam Catura  
414-418-0289  
[ACatura@wi.rr.com](mailto:ACatura@wi.rr.com)

**Assistant Sgt of Arms:**

Isabella Zenda  
Jr member

**Upcoming events**

**2024 December 14th-**  
Wreaths Across America  
Southern WI Memorial  
Cemetery - Ceremony 11am  
and wreath placement right  
after.

**2025 Midwinter Conference**  
- January 17th- January 19th  
in Appleton WI, please  
register by January 2nd

**End of Year Reports  
Workshop-** February 22nd  
2025, Pewaukee will host  
this year from 10am-12pm  
(go over reports and needed  
items, then time to start

**MidWinter Conference**

Please go to [Wilegion.org/midwinter](http://Wilegion.org/midwinter) to register. It will be held at the Hilton Paper Valley in Appleton WI January 16- 19th. Registration is \$25 per member until January 2nd. After this it will go to \$30 per member. Saturday is the main day for the Auxiliary. There will be a special presentation from the Madison POW / MIA program as well. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

**Membership**

Hello District 1 Diamonds

Congratulations to Unit #0021 Kenosha for putting the pedal to the metal and reaching 100% in membership ! Well Done, Kenosha !! Units that are very close to reaching 100% are, Edgerton, Beloit, Footville, Clinton, Okauchee and Eagle Keep the momentum going ! Our District is shining bright ! You are all doing a Awesome job at membership ! Thank you for all you do. To date we have 20 New members in our District. I ,as your 1st Vice/Membership Chair, have lighten my load at my Post/Unit, to free up my time, to get out and support all of you at your Post/Unit events and programs.

Please use our Facebook group,

[The American Legion Auxiliary Dept.of Wisconsin First District](#) to post your events.

Thank You, Madam President Crystal Shaw, for your planning on upcoming fun events for our District family.

Great way for us all to get to know one another better. I want to wish all of you, Blessed Holidays. Stay Safe, Stay Warm, Stay Well.

Please feel free to call or message me if I can be of any assistance.

Carol Brady  
414-573-6459

[bradybunch02@yahoo.com](mailto:bradybunch02@yahoo.com)

Membership Chair-1st District

them and work on them with others)

**2025 Spring Executive Board meeting-** Saturday February 22nd, 2025 at Pewaukee Post 71 12pm

**2025 Spring Conference -** Saturday April 26th, 2025 to be held at Delavan Unit 95, hosted by Sharon Unit

**2025 - Sunday March 23rd -** First District American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary combined fundraiser for Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin.

**2025 - First District Legion Camping Trip-** Richard Bong State Park July 25th - 27th 2025

## **First District Combined Fundraiser for Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin**

We will host a 9 pin bowling tournament at the Riverside Lanes in Waterford WI on Sunday March 23rd to begin at 12pm. Our Auxiliaries are asked to provide 1 basket per unit and 1 per county. We will need people to sign-up for shifts to sell raffle tickets and help set up as well. The legion will be in charge of team sign-ups. More information to come on the legion side of things. If you are interested in signing up to set-up, take-down, or sell tickets, please reach out to our VA&R Chair Mary Kohler at 262-949-8950. Come support bowlers as well! Let's make a day out of it and cheer them on! We are also accepting financial donations. If you would like to donate money please make out a check, VOW in memo and send to Jill Gust, First District Treasurer 614 E. Juneau Ave. Oconomowoc, WI 53066

## ***District Dues and Assessment Fees***

At the Spring Conference of 2024, a change was voted on and passed. This change was that if no member from a unit was present at a district conference, the unit is responsible to pay the district the assessment of one registration fee which was \$15 for fall conference. Please make the check out to ALA First District and put assessment in the memo line. Please send to our District Treasurer Jill Gust, First District Treasurer

614 E. Juneau Ave.  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Also District dues are due, please make out check to ALA First District and send to Jill as well.

If you do not like this change, your unit and counties are welcome to propose an addendum with reasoning, as well as proposed alternative, to be brought to the Spring executive committee.

Please email to our Bylaws Chair Yvonne [y.knight@comcast.net](mailto:y.knight@comcast.net)

## **Still Calling for District Leaders**

Our District still needs some more members to step up for leadership roles. Do you have passion for Americanism, Community Service, Education, Jr activities, Leadership, or Legislative,? If so please step up and help fill the seat. You can check our Department website under programs to learn about each of them and see if this is something you would like to try. I would like to have the committee chair speak at a conference to help educate our district on what they found out about the program and how we can work it. I would also like to remind everyone you do not have to be or have been any officer to fill this role. I look forward to hearing from members.

**Kindest Regards  
Crystal Shaw  
District President  
262-672-8205**

## **Meet some of your Leadership**

### ***Jill Gust your District Treasurer,***

Hello, All! Jill Gust here. Unit 91 Oconomowoc is where I have belonged since 2011, serving as Historian for two years before becoming Treasurer, which I still am. Last year, I also became Waukesha County Council Secretary. I was recruited to join the Auxiliary by someone I "church" with, who knew that my daughter had served in the Wisconsin Army National Guard and was a Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I do "treasure" our Unit meetings when we make the decisions on how to invest our Poppy Campaign funds. We use the Department suggested donations form, as well as make donations to other Veterans' initiatives that members advance. Another favorite activity is visiting the Veterans at our local nursing home around Veterans Day, thanking them for their service, hearing their stories and presenting them with a gift. As you probably know, they can't thank you enough! Of importance to me is the A.L.F. aspect of our organization - "our devotion to mutual helpfulness." Let's keep working on that!

### ***Mary Kohler your VA&R Chair, 2nd Vice President,***

I am Mary Kohler a member for 56 years, President of Darien Unit 450, 1st Vice of Walworth County, 2nd Vice of District. I have been 1st District president 2 times and severed on the dept committees Poppy, fundraiser, as well as resolution committee. I have climbed the officer ladder at Unit, County, and District levels. I joined because of father who served in WWII. I was also blessed to be a page to Dept for Pat Smith at Natinonal Convention in San Antonio TX. I love the Auxiliary because I love to serve Veterans.

### ***Sam Catura your Sergeant at Arms,***

I am a member of Hartland Unit 294 and serve as the Sgt-at-Arms for the Unit, Waukesha County Council Assistant Sgt-at-Arms and District Sgt-at-Arms. I am honored to serve as the District Poppy Chair. I have been an Auxiliary member since 2012 when the Commander at Post 449 asked me if I was a member. I did not think I was eligible, and he pointed out I could through the service of my brother in Vietnam. From there it has been a lot of wonderful experiences for me serving as Unit 449 Membership chair with ENTHUSIASM, for many years, and Unit Chaplain for one term. I then ran for Waukesha County President and went on to try my hand at First District President. I have met and worked with so many wonderful members, from across the State, who make our organization the greatest!

**Just a few reminders as we are closing in on the deadline for ordering your poppies. Please be sure to check your inventory and order before December 15<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to take advantage of all the upcoming holiday gatherings, and with permission from hosts, put out a poppy canister. Wear your poppy always, as this is a great PR tool for getting non-members educated on the purpose of the poppy and may even get you some NEW members.**

**Are you working with your local schools for poppy posters? Why not offer a small monetary incentive to students, especially as there is always a need for more school supplies and/or interest in an art degree. Again, an exceptional way to spread the news about The American Legion Family. Students do not need to be affiliated with the Legion; however here again is an opportunity for new members from the whole family.**

**What about Miss Poppy, Little Miss Poppy, and Poppy Queen? What a fun and exciting way to get our Junior members involved! Moms, Grandmas, Aunts, let's talk to our family members and share the fun while teaching good Patriotic lessons.**

**Always remember to be a positive influence while promoting our poppy program. Be ENTHUSIASTIC!**