



# WISCONSIN



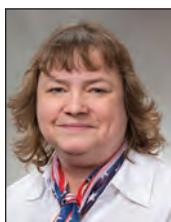
American Legion Auxiliary  
P.O. Box 140  
Portage, WI 53901

alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

The official publication of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

www.amlegionauxwi.org

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**TERESA ISENSEE**  
Department  
President

*Good bye may seem forever.  
Farewell is like the end,  
but in my heart is the memory  
and there you will always be.*  
~ Walt Disney

As a member of this organization and in the Spirit of Service, Not Self, I will support the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary and continue to work on our vision of one million members by our

Centennial year – 2019. It seems like only yesterday my term as Department President began, but this will be my last message to you, the members of The American Legion Family, as Department President.

Thank you, Commander Shappell, SAL Detachment Commander Gary Lubich and American Legion Rider President Ray McSherry, for a wonderful year of service to our veterans and your support of the American Legion Auxiliary.

This past year has been amazing. I have driven over 18,000 miles to visit with the members of our great

organization and each one of you has touched my life in so many ways. What a wonderful feeling to see our members in action and to see the care that our veterans are receiving. I look forward to the reports at Department Convention from our Program Chairmen on what the units in Wisconsin have reported.

Music Therapy, my special project, was well received at all of our VA Facilities. Music soothes the mind, body, and soul, and is a great way to relax, remember, and renew. Because of your generous

donations, we were able to donate many music related items.

Even though my year as Department President is over, it does not mean that we should stop renewing members for the 2015 Membership Year. There is still a chance at receiving cash awards from National - \$500 if we reach 95% renewals by July 24, 2015 (we need 1,151); \$250 if we reach 100% by July 24,

2015 and \$125 if we reach 100% by December 31, 2015. Don't give up – keep on contacting the non-renewed members in your Unit.

Thank you members of the American Legion Family for making this year one that I will not forget.

*It's something unpredictable, but in the end is right, I hope you had the time of your life.*

~ Green Day

## MEMBERSHIP

Joan Chwala, Dept. Chairman  
Email: [Ctr68552@centurytel.net](mailto:Ctr68552@centurytel.net)  
H: 715-668-5661

### Wisconsin Auxiliary Members "Raised Their Voices in Song"

The membership theme in Wisconsin for President Teresa Isensee's year was "Raise Your Voice in Song," and indeed the members of the Department of Wisconsin were singing their hearts out to do their best to honor our veterans, our military, their families, and our communities.

Special efforts were made to renew/rejoin our past and present members and this paid off as Wisconsin consistently ranked in the top five nationally most of the year.

A membership power point presentation was part of each Concert Tour event. These events were educational, exciting, and even served to entice a few new members to our organization. M&M characters were seen at many events to publicize the Million Member Centennial Plan. Mem-

bers showing their 2015 membership card were given a "One in a Million" M&M treat.

One membership benefits workshop was held in Lone Rock. Attendees felt that they learned enough to be able to use the department and national web pages to access their coupons and discounts. Feel free to ask for help.

We had 111 units and three counties that were at numeric goal or better by the June 12 deadline. Congratulations to Donna Wilhelms, Sandra Werner, and Kathy Kalyvas for winning the Recruit 10 awards and to Silver Brigade winner, Sandra Werner, who recruited a total of 34 new senior members and 14 new juniors by the April 17 deadline! She wins a special gift from National President Janet Jefford and a \$25 gift card from the Department membership chairman. Wisconsin members recruited over 1,000 new members. There were more than 55 "Honor Female Veterans" gift memberships given in Wisconsin. Final winners in all incen-

tive contests will be announced at the Department Convention.

Winners in "The Final Countdown" contest for the \$100 prizes are: Elmwood Unit 209 with +60, Franklin Unit 192 with +28, Pembine Unit 461 with +21, Black River Falls Unit 129 with +18, and Saukville 470 with +15. Congratulations to all of the units who worked so hard to exceed their goals.

This is my final membership message for the Wisconsin newspaper. This membership team wishes to thank our faithful followers for reading our song related comments this past year. We will be celebrating all of your accomplishments at the department convention in Appleton and hope you will join us there. Watch this column to learn about your new membership themes, goals, and contests for the 2015-2016 membership year.

*Joan Chwala, Chairman*

*Bonnie Jakubczyk, UD&R*

*Mary Petrie, UD&R*

*Morgan Johnsen, Junior Member*

## Wisconsin's Endorsed Candidates for National Office



During the American Legion Auxiliary Department Leadership Conference held in June, Joyce Endres presented gifts to Denise Rohan and Diane Duscheck. Diane Duscheck has been endorsed to serve as American Legion Auxiliary National President in 2017-2018 and Denise Rohan has been endorsed for The American Legion National Commander in 2017-2018. The conference included several fundraisers to support these two future leaders of the American Legion Family.

## Raise your Voice in Song for Our Veterans



**88.25% • JULY 2015**

### THANK YOU

Frank Cason, husband of Department Bookkeeper Linda Cason, thanks everyone for the get well wishes and prayers after experiencing a mild stroke. After a minor set-back and a recent stay at a rehabilitation facility, Frank is now home and doing outpatient therapy. He's taking one day at a time and is confident his strength will return.

# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

**Joanie Dickerson**  
 Dept. Chaplain/Music Chairman  
 Ph: (608) 996-2152  
 Email: [jomarie@tds.net](mailto:jomarie@tds.net)

As I write this, it's difficult to believe a year has passed and it is time for state convention. It has been a wonderful year, serving as your Department Chaplain. Although I will no longer serve in an official capacity as Chaplain, please know each of you will remain in my prayers as you continue the work of our organization. I look forward to seeing you in Appleton.

**Prayer of Gratitude**  
 by Rebecca J. Rogers

Today I stopped, dear Lord, to think  
 Of all the things You've done;  
 Of all the tears You've dried for me  
 And all the battles won.

Of all the times my head hung low  
 Without a friend to care,  
 Now looking back, I clearly see  
 That you were always there.

Sometimes it would be easy, Lord,  
 To give in to defeat,  
 To let old Satan have his way,  
 Admitting I am beat.

But somewhere deep inside of me  
 I hear Your gentle voice,  
 That circumstance is no excuse  
 And victory is a choice!

Lord, one more thing I ask of You,  
 As I go on my way,  
 That all the love and blessings sent  
 I may, somehow, repay.

May those I meet, wherever I go,  
 See You in all I do,  
 And may all my deeds and all my ways  
 Say, Lord, how much I love You!

**Music**  
 Time to once again raise our voices in song for our veterans! Here's part of a song recorded by Johnny Cash, written by Marty Robbins and Shirl Milete.

**Song of the Patriot**  
 I'm a flag waving patriotic nephew of my Uncle Sam  
 A rough riding fighting Yankee man  
 I love mom and apple pie and the freedoms that we all enjoy  
 Across this beautiful land.

I worked hard and I fight hard for the old red, white and blue.  
 And I'll die a whole lot harder if it comes to where I have to  
 I'm a flag waving patriotic nephew of my Uncle Sam, A rough riding fighting Yankee man.

And when I see old glory waving  
 I think of all the brave men  
 Who have fought and died for what is right and wrong.

And when I see old glory burnin'  
 My blood begins to churnin'  
 And I could do some fightin' of my own.

I don't believe in violence, I'm a God fearing man  
 But I'd stand up for my country just as long as I can stand  
 'Cause I'm a flag waving patriotic nephew of my Uncle Sam  
 A rough riding fighting Yankee man.  
 'Cause I love all my brothers and we're proud of our group  
 We've got the greenest country here on God's green earth  
 And I'm a flag waving patriotic nephew of my Uncle Sam, A rough riding fighting Yankee man.

## GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

**Bonnie Dorniak**  
 Executive Secretary/Treasurer  
 Ph: (608) 745-0124  
 Email: [deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org](mailto:deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org)

I would like to thank each of the American Legion Auxiliary units that took time to report their accomplishments during the 2014-2015 Auxiliary year. Slightly more than one-half of Wisconsin's units submitted a year-end report. Imagine the results if ALL of the units reported! Please review the statistics to the right to see how the American Legion Auxiliary makes a difference to our veterans, the military and their families. Feel free to share this information with members in your community and encourage them to get involved too!

2016 membership cards and rosters have been mailed to the person designated to receive renewal notices for the unit. If your unit does not receive its packet during the next week, please contact Andrea Stoltz at headquarters immediately. Membership Processing Guidelines are also available upon request. New membership chairmen are encouraged to call and request a copy to ensure all paperwork is processed correctly and efficiently. Still have questions? Please do not hesitate to call Andrea Stoltz.

The national organization will mail the first renewal notices the week of September 15th. Please don't wait until then to pay your dues. Units are reminded to forward dues to Department Headquarters regularly (at least monthly, but more frequently is appreciated) since a member is not considered paid until the dues have been processed by Department Headquarters.

Members who prefer to pay their 2016 dues online may now do so with a debit or credit card. Simply go to [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org), to the "Members Only" tab and create a log in ID if you don't already have one. The pay dues option will be at the top of the screen. If you need assistance with creating a log-in ID, please contact the national organization's helpline at [alahq@alaforveterans.org](mailto:alahq@alaforveterans.org). Dues can only be accepted for the 2016 membership year. If you wish to pay previous years's due or for other family members, the dues must still be processed through the unit.

Let's stop the membership slide and recruit, renew and rejoin Auxiliary members so we can continue to make a difference for generations to come!

The following 2014-2015 statistics are based on the year-end reports from 239 of Wisconsin's 425 Units:

### WHAT WE DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

- OUR SERVICE FOR VETERANS:**
- Hours volunteered: 246,417
  - Dollars spent: \$291,364
  - Dollar value of in kind donations: \$113,305
  - Number of Veterans assisted: 17,546
  - # of poppies purchased: 401,675
  - Poppy dollars raised: \$267,411

- OUR SERVICE FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY:**
- Hours volunteered: 17,682
  - Dollars spent: \$28,404
  - # of US service members served: 8,484

- OUR SERVICE FOR MILITARY FAMILIES:**
- Hours volunteered: 13,963
  - Dollars spent: \$44,231
  - # of military families served: 1,551

- SCHOLARSHIPS:**
- Number of scholarships awarded: 495
  - Dollar amount of local scholarships: \$84,470
  - Dollar amount donated to Department and National scholarships: \$5,545

## Homeless Women Veterans Program

**Judy Walters, Chairman**  
 Ph: (715) 832-5942 or (715) 579-0672  
 Email: [jw5942@charter.net](mailto:jw5942@charter.net)

The Homeless Women Veterans (HWV) Program continues to be very successful. This has only been made possible with the continuous support of American Legion Auxiliary members, units, and districts.

When the fiscal year began in June 2014, it looked like there were fewer veterans needing help than in the past. But by the end of May 2015, we had received more applications than the previous year. This was occurring not only within our program but within the VA system and other veterans' agencies as well. No one knows for sure why. It doesn't necessarily mean there are

more women veterans who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. It could very well be an increased awareness of the benefits, programs and services available to women veterans or more women trust the system and are finally willing to seek help. If that is the case, then we are on the right road to working our way forward in helping to end homelessness for our veterans.

The women seeking help served between 1974 and 2015 and several were suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and/or Military Sexual Trauma. There were also quite a few who were receiving a disability pension from the VA but were not getting enough money to cover their monthly expenditures.

The fiscal year starting June 2015, started with the greatest number of grant applications received in any one month. We received nine grant applications with the total amount of assistance requested almost \$10,000. The HWV Program is funded strictly by donations. As of June 30, 2015, the balance in the HWV Grant Fund was down to approximately \$8,500. Donations are always needed – and now more so than ever!

Please support the Homeless Women Veterans Fund. Make checks payable to "ALA-WI" and send to: ALA-Department Headquarters, PO Box 140, Portage, WI 53901. Indicate the donation is for the Homeless Women Veterans Grant and include your unit # and city location.

Thank you for your continued support.

## 2015 FALL INFORMATIONAL FORUM

September 18-19, 2015 • The Plaza Hotel & Suites • 1202 W. Clairmont Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701

Form submitted by (print clearly):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ District #: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone #: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee is \$10.00, which entitles each attendee to receive ONE packet of program information distributed at Fall Forum.  
 \* Please indicate below if you would like to receive this information as paper handouts or on a Computer Disk (CD).  
 Additional CD's may be pre-ordered for \$3 each.

A Membership Kickoff Luncheon will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2015 from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm.  
 Lunch must be pre-ordered by SEPTEMBER 1, 2015. No refunds will be issued for cancellations after September 1st or No-Shows.

Attendees may register at the event but will not be able to purchase lunch at the conference because meals must be ordered in advance.  
 Lunch options:

- **Grilled Chicken Sandwich:** 6 oz. grilled chicken breast topped with melted provolone cheese served on a white bun with lettuce and tomato. Served with chips, pickle spear and choice of coffee or tea. Cost: \$15.00 (includes gratuity/tax).
- **Chef's Salad:** A bed of salad greens topped with julienne ham and turkey, cheddar and Swiss cheese, tomato wedges, black olives and sliced eggs. Served with petite dinner roll and choice of coffee or tea. Cost: \$15.00 (includes gratuity/tax).

NAME (print clearly)	FIRST TIME ATTENDEE? (YES/NO)	* HANDOUTS CHOOSE ONE FORMAT (Free)		ADDITIONAL HANDOUTS (AVAILABLE ON CD ONLY - \$3 EACH)	REGISTRATION (\$10)	GRILLED CHICKEN SANDWICH (\$15)	CHEF'S SALAD (\$15)	TOTAL COST PER PERSON
		PAPER	CD					
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
<b>GRAND TOTALS:</b>								

Mail check, payable to ALA-Wisconsin, by SEPTEMBER 1st to: ALA Wisconsin, P. O. Box 140, Portage, WI 53901-0140  
 Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*If more space is needed please attach a second sheet*

## ALA Badger Girls State

The 72nd session of American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State (ALABGS) began with registration on Sunday, June 21 followed by get acquainted sessions in the fourteen cities. Parents were invited to the Father's Day Brunch as well as the opening assembly on the UW-Oshkosh campus. On Sunday evening, more than 700 citizens nominated their city officials and voted for them on Monday morning. Newly elected city officials were welcomed by Department President Teresa Isensee.

City pictures were taken on Monday morning while citizens circulated nomination papers for state offices. Later that morning the newly elected city officials had their first city meetings and set up commissions. The county, senate and assembly positions were nominated in the afternoon and elected on Tuesday evening. Interest groups included physical activity, band, chorus, lobbyists, The View, parliamentary procedure, Badger Tales, multimedia, Americanism, patriotism and women's issues.

On Tuesday, the senate and assembly learned to write bills. The Federalist and Nationalist political parties had caucuses to adopt their party platforms followed by party rallies. The primary election was followed by a presentation from Todd Berry, president of the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance.

Wednesday highlights included city and county meetings along with election of the seven state officials. Hearings on bills were held in the seven counties with lobbyists in attendance. An inspirational flag retirement ceremony was conducted by the American Legion Riders. Commander Bob Shappell and Badger Boys State Director Fred Berns addressed

the citizens.

Thursday highlights included the state fair, featuring exhibits and a talent show, and the inaugural program. Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Shirley Abrahamson administered the oath of office to the senate, assembly and state officers. Governor Scott Walker addressed those in attendance at the inaugural. The names of the Girls Nation

senators who will attend the 2015 session of Girls Nation in Chevy Chase, Maryland were announced.

On Friday, the session ended with a senate and assembly session, a career fair, and the closing assembly. Sixty-six very dedicated counselors gave their time and talent to contribute to the success of the 2015 session. It truly was the 51st state of Badger in action!

### 2015 American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State Elected Constitutional Officers



Front Row (l-r): Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, Esther Lusenge (BGS Lt. Governor), Olivia Checkalski (BGS Governor), Elizabeth Haverland Erwin (BGS Treasurer), Mariah Filla (BGS Supreme Court Justice). Second Row (l-r): Elizabeth Reinowski (BGS Secretary of State), Sarah Goldberg (BGS Attorney General), Isabelle Abbott (BGS Superintendent of Public Instruction)

## 2015 AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

### CLASS I (GRADES 3 & 4)

1ST PLACE - Madeline Fipps	Unit #461	Pembine
2ND PLACE - Devin Jennerjohn	Unit #512	Shiocton
3RD PLACE - Elizabeth Foster	Unit #357	Bay City
4TH PLACE - Jackson Fiamoncini	Unit #87	Rice Lake
5TH PLACE - Halle Derleth	Unit #93	Tomahawk

### CLASS II (GRADES 5 & 6)

1ST PLACE - Zach O'Brien	Unit #544	Twin Lakes
2ND PLACE - Clara O'Connell	Unit #348	DeForest
3RD PLACE - Jeremiah Auer	Unit #161	King
4TH PLACE - Kennedie Owens	Unit #87	Rice Lake
5TH PLACE - Brittany Voight	Unit 106	Seymour

### CLASS III (GRADES 7 & 8)

1ST PLACE - Kimberly Claggett	Unit #306	Green Lake
2ND PLACE - Hailey Reeves	Unit #382	Menomonee Falls
3RD PLACE - Collin Hanson	Unit #87	Rice Lake
4TH PLACE - Jessica Besl	Unit #52	La Crosse
5TH PLACE - Alezia Brown	Unit #449	Brookfield

### CLASS IV (GRADES 9 & 10)

1ST PLACE - Rachael Leyshra	NA	
2ND PLACE - Hannah Sargent	Unit #13	Richland Center
3RD PLACE - Bekah Henn	Unit #365	Plum City
4TH PLACE - Aeysha Paskert	Unit #118	Thorp
5TH PLACE - Emily Pick	Unit #306	Green Lake

### CLASS V (GRADES 11 & 12)

1ST PLACE - Julie Benzschawel	Unit #118	Thorp
2ND PLACE - Nash Gilles	Unit #365	Plum City
3RD PLACE - Brian White	Unit #306	Green Lake
4TH PLACE - Kylie Pischke	Unit #306	Green Lake
5TH PLACE - Rachel Joas	Unit #364	Winneconne

## JUNE 2015 CALENDAR FUNDRAISER WINNERS

1	15.00	69443	Richard Barton	La Crosse WI 54601	16	15.00	60370	Cheryl Childers	Safety Harbor FL 34695
2	15.00	37739	Diane Black	Bloomer WI 54724	17	15.00	34465	Bernadette Rynes	Ontario WI 54651
3	15.00	69937	Kay Guyette	Shiocton WI 54170	18	15.00	69779	Tonya Van Straten	Shiocton WI 54170
4	15.00	70466	Gerda Aarness	Westby WI 54667	19	15.00	48179	Gertie Fox	Menomonee Falls WI 53051
5	15.00	68817	Grace Werwie	Bryant WI 54418	20	15.00	55716	Beverly J Rose	Oshkosh WI 54901
6	500.00	36653	Jeanne Kilbane	Minocqua WI 54548	21	25.00	39319	Elizabeth Hamilton	Bruce WI 54819
7	25.00	60954	Barbara Fitzgerald	East Troy WI 53120	22	15.00	62676	Beverly Rukavina	Milwaukee WI 53219
8	15.00	47676	Adeline Aiani	Oconomowoc WI 53066	23	15.00	26949	Theresa Schindler	Owen WI 54460
9	15.00	35760	Danielle Zahn	Suring WI 54174	24	15.00	36662	Lynn Anderson	San Diego CA 92108
10	15.00	48234	Nina Lenz	Hartford WI 53027	25	15.00	32485	Sena Christopherson	Grantsburg WI 54840
11	15.00	46118	Toni Stolarik	McFarland WI 53558	26	15.00	51545	Ruth Montgomery	Weyauwega WI 54983
12	15.00	46993	Janet Thompson	Cudahy WI 53110	27	15.00	45289	Kathleen Zagar	New Berlin WI 53146
13	15.00	69900	Kathy Smits	Seymour WI 54165	28	25.00	64998	Karen Wurth	Gresham WI 54128
14	25.00	28986	JoAnn Runge	Colby WI 54421	29	15.00	28823	Karen Maier	Wausau WI 54403
15	15.00	54178	Margaret Hale	West Bend WI 53095	30	15.00	46434	Virginia Jacobs	Franksville WI 53126

## DISTRICT YEAR END REPORTS



### 1st District Report Kitty Larkin District President

The district members have been singing their way through the activities this year while generously supporting our veterans and our department programs. We began the fall season with a Concert Tour along with our fall conference. The members thoroughly enjoyed the knowledgeable and enthusiastic department officers and chairmen that presented this endeavor. They liked not having to travel so far to have access to all that was presented.

The explanation of the American Legion Auxiliary's Five-Year Strategic Goals was of particular interest to the group finding out how they fit into the goals and the potential the goals hold for their own units.

The necessity of having members at all levels to help build the organization's image and serve our veterans is a continuing challenge that must be met within the units to keep us alive and moving forward. We are constantly working to meet this challenge.

This year First District concentrated on

VA&R projects that related to the veterans residing in the medical centers. There were protective chair pads, bed quilts, lap robes and clothing protectors made by units in large numbers so that every resident would have access to them. The Union Grove facility was the benefactor of many of these items and it helped to make the veterans' lives more comfortable.

The second year of the term we will concentrate on a Children and Youth project and items have already started to come in related to the making and collecting of layette items for the female veterans and their newborn babies. This provides every member with the opportunity to become a "substitute grandmother" and provide the love it takes to knit, crochet, sew or shop for new items for these babies.

75% of the Units completed their Impact Reports to lend credence to the great work that the Auxiliary does working hand-in-hand with the rest of the Legion family. Family members have helped with the distribution of poppies and as contributors for Girls State delegates allowing us to do more for the veterans and to reach out to the youth of our great nation.

We are proud of the Wisconsin members that are moving into the National arena of the organization and will continue to work to help support the challenges and opportunities that face them. Good luck to each candidate; we wish you much success.

### 2nd District Report Judy Kuta District President

This year has truly shown why we are called "The Mighty Second District." The ALA members across the 2nd District

worked hard to carry out the mission of this great organization. We mightily advocated for veterans, educated our citizens, mentored youth and promoted patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security. I saw our members support the programs and events of other units across the district. We shared ideas and helped wherever we could. We worked with the Legion, the SAL and the Legion Riders to tell our story throughout the district. We supported each other and strove to work together while showing respect for each other, encouraging each other to use our best talents and being thankful

for whatever each member could do to help meet our goals.

The Second District worked hard this year to report what we have done. I am happy to announce 100% year-end reporting across the district. I cannot be more proud of the 46 units in this district. They volunteered over 40,000 hours in service to our veterans and spent over \$63,000 and donated over \$24,000 in-kind items. They distributed 36,000 poppies and raised almost \$48,000 to be used for our veterans. They also worked hard for our active duty and reserve military. Over 7,500 hours were volunteered and more than \$9,000 was spent on the brave men and women serving our country. They also volunteered over 3,000 hours to military families and spent more than \$4,600 serving their needs. 39 scholarships were awarded with a total of \$17,400, plus over \$1,000 were donated to department scholarships. Units also aided children and youth by volunteering more than 3,700 hours and spending almost \$8,000. Community service saw over 17,700 hours and \$18,800 was spent.

Thank you 2nd District for a job well done!



### 3rd District Report Sheila Melby District President

As the end of my first year as District President draws to a close, I have many good experiences to remember. One highlight

was attending the National Convention held in Charlotte, NC. That was an event I will never forget. We met people from all over the country and enjoyed good conversation and fellowship with them. The States Dinner with a "Golden Age of Hollywood" theme was delightful. Many great speakers, including the President of the United States, addressed the convention.

The units of 3rd District are spread out, as we are the largest district, so many of them were contacted by telephone or email. I think I was in touch with most units by one means or another. The ladies I spoke with were all so very helpful and willing to get things done. We are an amazing group! I have attended various functions in different areas of the district and found that wherever I am, the Auxiliary is alive and well. We all experience bumps in the road, but the ladies I have met try to smooth them out. I continue to be impressed by their innovations and dedication to our veterans.

Membership is still an issue, as I suspect it will be for some time. We are diligently working toward a million members and hopefully will attain that goal.

What a proud time for Wisconsin and the American Legion Auxiliary in particular. The future National President, Diane Duscheck, is from Whitefish Bay. The future National Commander, Denise Rohan, from Verona, is a dual member. Many of the events I attended this year had fundraisers for these ladies.

My goal for my second year as District President is to attend more county and unit meetings. There is much to be learned from what others are doing.



### 4th District Report Donna Jensen District President

It is hard to believe my two year term as 4th District President is almost over. We have been serving our Veterans "with

music" during this past year per the theme of President Teresa.

Fourth District has been busy this year. One of the highlights was the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival held in Milwaukee at the end of October with the performances held on November 2, 2014 at the Milwaukee Arena. This was accomplished with the help of many volunteers from the Legion Family serving in many ways, including hosting hospitality rooms.

I have attended many events during the last two years including visiting the VA Hospital, job fair for veterans, state and national conventions, unit meetings, and numerous Auxiliary and Legion events in support of both the Auxiliary and the American Legion. Thank you to everyone involved in updating the Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules and especially Diana Sirovina who lead that project.

We continue to work on membership and the goal of a million members by the Auxiliary's 100th anniversary in 2019. There have been some challenges and 4th District has been in 11th place much of the year. We are working to get former members to rejoin along with trying to sign up new members and we are doing better on rejoins in the Central Division.

Going forward, Wisconsin is very honored to have another candidate for National Auxiliary President for 2017-2018. Fundraising is ongoing for Diane Duscheck to support her in this great achievement. Along with raising funds for Diane, the Auxiliary is also involved in supporting the American Legion and their candidate for National Commander in 2017-2018, Denise Rohan. There are more fundraising events scheduled for both these candidates so please do all you can to support both of them.

I want to thank everyone who mentored me and helped me during the past two years. It was an honor to serve the 4th District and the American Legion Auxiliary



### 5th District Report Wilma Kidney District President

I am proud to say that out of our small district we have two 100% units. They are Unit #1 and Unit #406. I am still hoping for

some more to at least get close to 100%.

The same two units did very well with poppy distribution. As a result they were able to donate to several veterans programs.

My dream is to get the units that are inactive to transfer members to another unit if they can't get the minimum number of members. We don't want to lose members, but gain. The old saying is, "Many hands make light work." I certainly hope we can reach that goal. We need to do this for our veterans and families. This would only be a fraction of what they have given for all of us so we can enjoy our wonderful freedom.



### 6th District Report Beth Puddy District President

I have enjoyed my two years as District President and getting to know more about many of you and

learning more about the American Legion Auxiliary. 6th District rose to the top in memberships in December and never looked back. Congratulations and thank you ladies for all of your efforts! We all know membership is not easy and it takes a group effort. Many units have achieved 100% or more in membership. We started a new unit and revived a unit looking to disband.

Exciting times are ahead as we help Diane Duscheck in her journey to National President and Denise Rohan in her journey to National Commander. I'm looking forward to my next adventure with the Auxiliary. Ask someone if you would like to be more involved - there are many, many, many ladies who are willing to share what they know to help you. Thank you ladies for all you do to help our Veterans, young and old. For God and Country, Beth Puddy, 6th District President.

### 7th District Report Marianne Lesko District President

No Report Submitted



### 8th District Report Shelley Wilkinson District President

This last year sure has had its challenges, especially with losing our District 8 President, Joan Wilkinson. Joan started off the year attending as many unit meetings and functions as she was able to. I, as well, did my best to attend unit meetings

and was able to attend most of the functions I was invited to.

I attended a chili dinner in Fremont. I helped with the frying of potato pancakes for our Veteran's pancake breakfast in Tigerton. I participated in a cookie sale to help earn money for the Honor Flight. I dressed up as Santa's elf and distributed Christmas gifts to homeless Veterans. I attended a cookout and motorcycle parade and was able to join local Veterans in purchasing groceries and donating them to the homeless Veterans.

I do not know what I would do without my team by my side, my American Legion Family. Everyone was so helpful and patient with me through the transition of my mother's illness and passing. I cannot thank all of you enough. Thank you again for all of your assistance to help make this a successful year.



### 9th District Report Mary Krutz District President

Greetings from the Noble Ninth District.

The design of the Strategic Plan is such that by working on goals two through five, we will reach the first goal of attaining one million members. Even though our district is in sixth place in the state with 91.37% of membership, the units in our district have been working hard to develop better leaders and stronger units. We have sponsored a Concert Tour where our Department Leaders brought our members program information and taught us leadership skills. 1st Vice President Becky Mueller of Seymour developed a workshop to help our Unit Presidents better understand the impact and narrative report writing. Unit Presidents like Ann Lotter of Oconto Falls made it a priority for unit members to study and take the Leadership course and test. The Ninth District also purchased a revitalization kit for each of our 42 units and handed them out to the units or county presidents at spring conference.

We look forward to the successful revitalization of units, strengthening our leadership, and working together with each other and our Legion Posts to make our Ninth District grow in membership. Thank you.



### 10th District Report Jean Erlewine District President

As I sit here and ponder on what I will write for my final report as 10th District President, I have to say it has been a very rewarding

time in my life to serve such a great organization as leader of the pack. There have been many accomplishments that we have done and many more that we could have done but it has been a good ride. I want to thank all of my officers and chairman for allowing me to work with you side by side to serve our Veterans and their families in the many programs that we work day in and day out. Thank you for your service.

I would like to congratulate our new District 10 President, Karen K. Hansen, and wish her joy and excitement as she will be the next President for 10th District. I know I don't have to show her or guide her because she has done this before, but I wish her a great ride like I had.

If I was ever asked to run for president again I would do it in a heartbeat. It was a pleasure to serve our Veterans and their families. Thanks again!



### 11th District Report Linda Kostka District President

FACT: District 11 did host one Department Convention. It was in Ashland, WI in 1938.

Department President Teresa Isensee's theme, "Raise Your Voice in Song for Our Veterans," has made for many enjoyable meetings. At the 2014 District 11 Fall Conference, our junior members led the Pledge of Allegiance, national anthem, and Preamble. They assisted with "Make a Difference Day" thank you bags. We were blessed with Miss Poppy (Theresa Schindler) telling us the history of the poppy. She brought along some examples of projects you can make using the poppy.

At our 2015 District Spring Conference, our theme was "Lollipop Concert." Both of our fall and spring fundraisers were very successful. We were blessed with many spontaneous sing-a-longs at both conferences!! We were able to donate \$500 to each, President Teresa's project, Creative Arts (my project), and Diane Duscheck's run for National ALA President. In the coming year we plan to support Denise Rohan (a dual member) for TAL National Commander.

Since I had a previous commitment, Barb Johnson, our Senior Vice President went to Presque Isle with District Commander Frank Kostka to do installation for the Legion and their Auxiliary. This unit has really grown over the past years and is now a vital part of the Legion Family.

Our membership renewals are slow but trickling in. 2016 is coming up fast and we are working to find more ways to increase our membership. District 11 has 24 units and 1,250 members. We are spread out over a large area with more animals and trees than people. I am very proud of our Auxiliary units and their efforts in all areas. Thank you for making a difference!!

*'Our Greatest Experiences are Our Quietest Moments' ~ Author Unknown*



### 12th District Report Barbara McDaniel District President

Two years ago I accepted the "challenge" of the duties as 12th District President. I survived the first year and now it seems

the second year is coming to a close. Yes, it was quite a ride and I enjoyed it very much. The work involved proved to be much more educational than I first realized it was, but none the less extremely interesting. Thank you to my mentors throughout the district and the staff in Portage.

The units completed quite a year as per their year-end-reports. We increased in poppy distributions, community service and contributions. I say "well-done Ladies." I send a big thank you to the county presidents for their help with membership and working with the various units to overcome the hurdles which cropped up. Also thank you to the unit presidents for the support each has given to the American Legion Auxiliary and giving useful information which made life a little bit easier.

I encourage all members to give the new District President and her staff the wonderful cooperation and support I received. It makes the road of life much easier to travel. I encourage all members to complete the Leadership Course and learn what has changed and why changes were needed. God Bless all our patriotic women and Auxiliary members.