



Auxiliary Newsletter

October 2026

Issue 15

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From the President's Desk

Happy Fall! Where did the time go? Department and National Conferences are behind us and now is the time to begin working on the vision(s) of our new Presidents.

Nationally, the focus is on education with expanding the Spirit of Youth scholarships to two military spouses and celebrating the 20th anniversary of Give 10 to Education.

At the Department of Wisconsin level, President Amy is championing the Veteran Honor flight hubs throughout the state.

I also know that each unit, county as well as the District will be reviewing their Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules to ensure the new membership eligibility will be updated to reflect this year's changes.

These will need to be reviewed by the Department Constitution & Bylaws Chair for compliance.

You will also need to update the Mission and Vision statements as changes have been made at the National level to both of these.

Looking forward to hearing what your units have planned to celebrate Veteran's Day this year.

Kathy Olson

Dates to Remember

October – Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October – Domestic Violence Awareness

October – National Bullying Prevention Month

October 13, 2026 – Navy's birthday (1775)

October 26, 2026 – National Day of the Deployed

October 27, 2026 – National Navy Day



American Legion Auxiliary

Dept. of WI - National Security

ZOOM Sessions for 2026-27

Thursday, October 22, 2026

6:30 – 8:00 PM

POW/MIA Awareness Initiative Implementation
Deployments & Welcome Home: What You Should Know

Thursday, December 3, 2026

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Blue & Gold Star Banner Programs
Navigating JROTC/ROTC Programs

Thursday, February 4, 2027

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Service Member of the Year – How-To's
National Security Annual Reports (with Example)

**Open to all Legion Family members -
Learn, Engage, and Strengthen Our Mission.**

Natalia Genovesi King

ALA Dept. of WI - National Security Chair

Email - KingGenovesi@gmail.com

Mobile 414.839.0454

VA&R

Shirley Krier

District 2 Chairperson

Hello ladies and gentlemen of the Mighty Second District. This year I will be working with the Wisconsin Homeless Veterans Initiative formally the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative. The theme of my project this year will be Christmas items for the veterans' men and women and their children. The veterans don't always have the means to purchase for themselves and their family.

Some of the personal items are socks (men and women), soap, lotion, shampoo & conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush, mouthwash, Q-tips, razors (men and women), wash cloths and towels. Also, on a wish list are cleaning supplies: all purpose cleaner, bleach wipes, window/glass cleaner, Ajax, comet, dish soap sponges, laundry baskets, and furniture polish. These are just a few of the items on the wish lists. Also needed are gently used winter coats/jackets for men, women and children, snow pants for children and gently used shoes for men, women and children, if you have any in your home. Winter hats/caps, mittens/gloves are also needed.

The deadline for sending checks will be November 15th and the deadline for purchasing gifts will be December 1st.

Wisconsin Homeless Veterans Initiative also has a food pantry that always needs items. Some of the items needed are applesauce, canned fruit, canned veggies, cereal, crackers, fruit and pudding cups, instant oatmeal, mac and cheese, and pasta to name a few.

The mission of the Wisconsin Homeless Veterans Initiative is to help homeless and at-risk veteran needs and maintain their highest levels of independence.

For Units how don't have the time to shop, checks can be made payable to ALA 2nd District Treasurer and send to Mary Montag, 726 Jean Ct, Allenton, WI 53002. If your Unit will be purchasing gifts you can contact me at Shirleykrier43@gmail.com or at 262-377-5026 and I will make arrangements to pick up the items.

Thank you in advance for your contribution to this District project.





Join Us in Welcoming the

NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ★ PRESIDENT ★

*Coral M. Grout
to Wisconsin!*



The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wisconsin is honored to welcome our National President, Coral M. Grout, during her visit to Wisconsin. **October 8-11**



Stars & Stripes Honor Flight Welcome Home

Saturday, October 10th
7:00pm

Join us at Milwaukee Airport as we welcome home our veterans from their honor flight, accompanied by National President Coral M. Grout who will be returning home alongside them on the flight.

HONOR
FLIGHT

★ ALL AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY ARE WELCOME ★

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet our National President, connect with fellow members from across the state, and participate in this memorable event celebrating service, camaraderie, and our mission.



Suggested arrival time is 7:00pm.

The flight is scheduled to arrive back at approximately 8:30pm.



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** – October 3, ZOOM
- **Washington** – September 19, 2026



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!

National Security

Carol Szudrowitz

District 2 Chair

This year's Wisconsin National Security Program emphasizes **participation, visibility, and impact**. Our District has selected projects specifically designed to help Units complete the five required activities.

September and October are key months for POW/MIA awareness across Wisconsin. Our District will be supporting Counties/Units through coordinated efforts to meet both Unit and community awareness requirements.

Units may participate by:

- Conducting POW/MIA remembrance at Unit meetings
- Participating in District/County or community POW/MIA ceremonies
- Sharing photos and brief narratives for reporting

These activities directly fulfill **National Security Activities 1 and 2**.

Attached to this email is a small selection of Missing in Action service members from each district who have not yet returned home. These names represent only a fraction of the men and women who answered our nation's call and whose fate remains unknown.

As part of the National Security Initiative of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin, each County in each District has been asked to select one of these service members (or another MIA from within their District who remains lost) to research and honor. Through this effort, members are asked to learn their story, understand the conflict in which they served, and recognize the sacrifice made in defense of our freedoms.

Counties and units are encouraged to speak about their selected service member at meetings, write about them in newsletters, and share their story through programs, presentations, and commemorative activities. By doing so, we ensure that these heroes are more than names on a list; they are remembered as Americans who served with honor and whose sacrifice continues to matter.

Additionally, the Department of WI National Security Program has been in contact with Monroe Specialty Company in Monroe, Wisconsin. Monroe Specialty has a strong history of working with members of the American Legion Family, veteran service organizations, and military-affiliated groups to produce high-quality POW/MIA bracelets that uphold the dignity of the tribute. Following is information on how to purchase one or more of these bracelets at a reduced cost. This simple yet powerful tribute ensures that their name, service, and sacrifice remain visible and remembered.

National Security – continued

Please watch for additional details from me or from our Department National Security Chair, including event dates and reporting instructions.

Lastly, there will be a Department of National Security ZOOM session on October 22, 2026, from 6:30 – 8 PM. Our National Security Chair, Natalia will discuss POW/MIA Awareness Initiative Implementation Deployments & Welcome Home: What You Should Know.

ZOOM Information:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7597549638?pwd=5iwhCoFdiZOZvWiNJ1FRpFDk4ZjGmU.1&omn=83698004099>

Meeting ID: 759 754 9638

PASSCODE: OPSEC

Or Call IN: [1-305-224-1968](tel:1-305-224-1968)

Meeting ID: 7597549638#

PASSCODE: 654282#

Thank you for honoring those who are still missing and their families.

POW/MIA BRACELETS

Another meaningful way your unit can honor the individual you have chosen (whether from the recommended list or one selected independently) is through the presentation and display of POW/MIA remembrance bracelets. This simple yet powerful tribute ensures that their name, service, and sacrifice remain visible and remembered.

We have been in contact with Monroe Specialty Company in Monroe, Wisconsin. Monroe Specialty has a strong history of working with members of the American Legion Family, veteran service organizations, and military-affiliated groups to produce high-quality POW/MIA bracelets that uphold the dignity of the tribute.

The company offers engraved cuff bracelets in stainless steel or anodized aluminum (available in red, blue, green, gold, silver, black, or purple – each with silver engraving) at a cost of \$4.65 per bracelet. (This is a discounted price.) Each bracelet includes two lines of engraved text and may feature the POW/MIA emblem or a custom logo, including military branch insignia.

While Monroe Specialty does not maintain name lists, they will work directly with your submitted roster in Excel, Word, or email format to ensure accuracy. They have committed to keeping pricing as low as possible for these memorial pieces and charge only minimal shipping as required.

The bracelets measure ½” x 61/2” and are designed to bend for a comfortable fit on most wrists. Standard engraving typically places the POW/MIA logo on the left, with two lines of text to the right. Common formatting includes:

- **Top Line: Rank and Name**
- **Second line: Branch of Service, Date of Loss, Location of Loss**

EXAMPLE (with state at right) BELOW:



Some groups choose to add the individual's home state on the right end of the bracelet or - if applicable – their panel and line number from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

To reduce shipping expenses and maximize value, units are encouraged to coordinate group orders whenever possible. This also ensures the discounted price of \$4.65 per bracelet.

For group purchasing information, please email your order to: customerservice@monroeid.com

You will need to designate the color of the bracelet and the Top Line and Second Line Information listed above in bold. Additionally, if you would like the Home State Listed or the Vietnam Memorial panel and line number, please include this information.

By undertaking this initiative, your unit not only honors one individual but also reaffirms a solemn national commitment: that those who are missing and those who were prisoners of war are not forgotten.



MIA/POW – Local Remembrance and Commitment

Below is a small selection of Missing in Action service members from District 2 who have not yet returned home. These names represent only a fraction of the men and women who answered our nation's call and whose fate remains unknown.

As part of the National Security Initiative of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin, each district is encouraged to allow its counties to select one of these service members – or another Mia from within their district who remains lost – to research and honor. Through this effort, members are asked to learn their story, understand the conflict in which they served, and recognize the sacrifice made in defense of our freedoms. Counties and units are encouraged to speak about their selected service member at meetings, write about them in newsletters, and share their story through programs, presentations, and commemorative activities. By doing so, we ensure that these heroes are more than names on a list – they are remembered as Americans who served with honor and whose sacrifice continues to matter.

This initiative affirms our enduring commitment to never forget those who did not return, to honor their families, and to uphold the promise that a grateful nation remembers all who served.

District 2 MIA

Donald Louis Gallagher – Sheboygan, WI

Lester Charles Behnisch – Cedarburg, WI

Jerome Henry Stoffel – West Bend, WI

William J Croatt – Belgium, WI

Ralph Bernard Corning – Portage, WI

Glenn John Broecker – Mayville, WI



Getting to know your Executive Officers Position

I am going to have a series of articles concerning the Executive Officers Positions. Each month we will feature a different office. This month we feature –

Executive officer position – President

Name – Kathy Olson

Kathy wrote:

The time has flown by quickly and in six short months, I will pass the torch to our next District 2 President. Hopefully some of my experiences will help with your term as District 2 President.

Being involved at the District level has opened me up to additional opportunities that the American Legion Auxiliary has to offer. I have attended two (2) National Conventions, attended the Oratorical competition and have enrolled in the Basic Course of the WI ALA academy. All of these have broadened my knowledge base of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Recently, I learned about the numerous scholarships that are available to our youth – some not requiring to be affiliated with the Legion.

Communication is key to a successful organization. As you know there are numerous emails and reminders sent on a weekly basis. I ensured that the information was forwarded to the County and Units so they could act on it as needed. I also followed up to help with any questions or concerns that members may have had.

Throughout my term, I fielded phone calls, messages and texts from County Presidents and Unit Presidents as questions/issues arose – providing resources to help with the issue at hand.

The best part of the position is going around District 2 meeting new people, seeing the various Units/Posts and accomplishments of all of the American Legion Family members.

The biggest disappointment that I found in this position is dealing with members who are not willing to change or willing/able to see the other side of an issue. It is a disheartening to see longtime members take a stance against “new” ideas and issue ultimatums to the Unit. After all, change is inevitable and should be embraced (or at least tolerated) to ensure growth in an organization.

A few take aways from my term as President are:

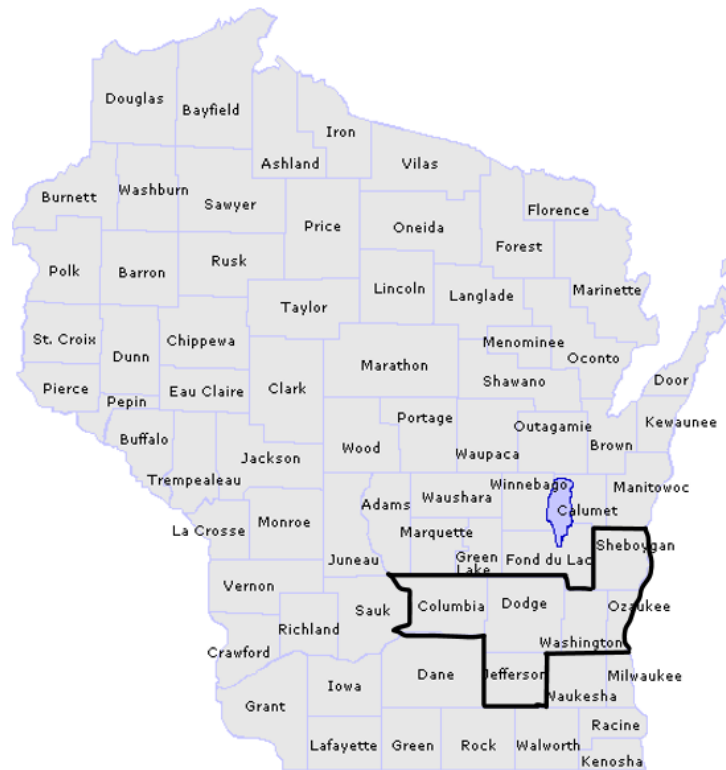
- *A District President needs to be invited to a Unit*
- *Units are Chartered by National and are their own entity (therefore, County and/or District officers do not have oversight)*
- *Districts and Counties are not bonded (the Units are bonded by National however, if you want the District or County to be bonded you will need to handle yourself)*

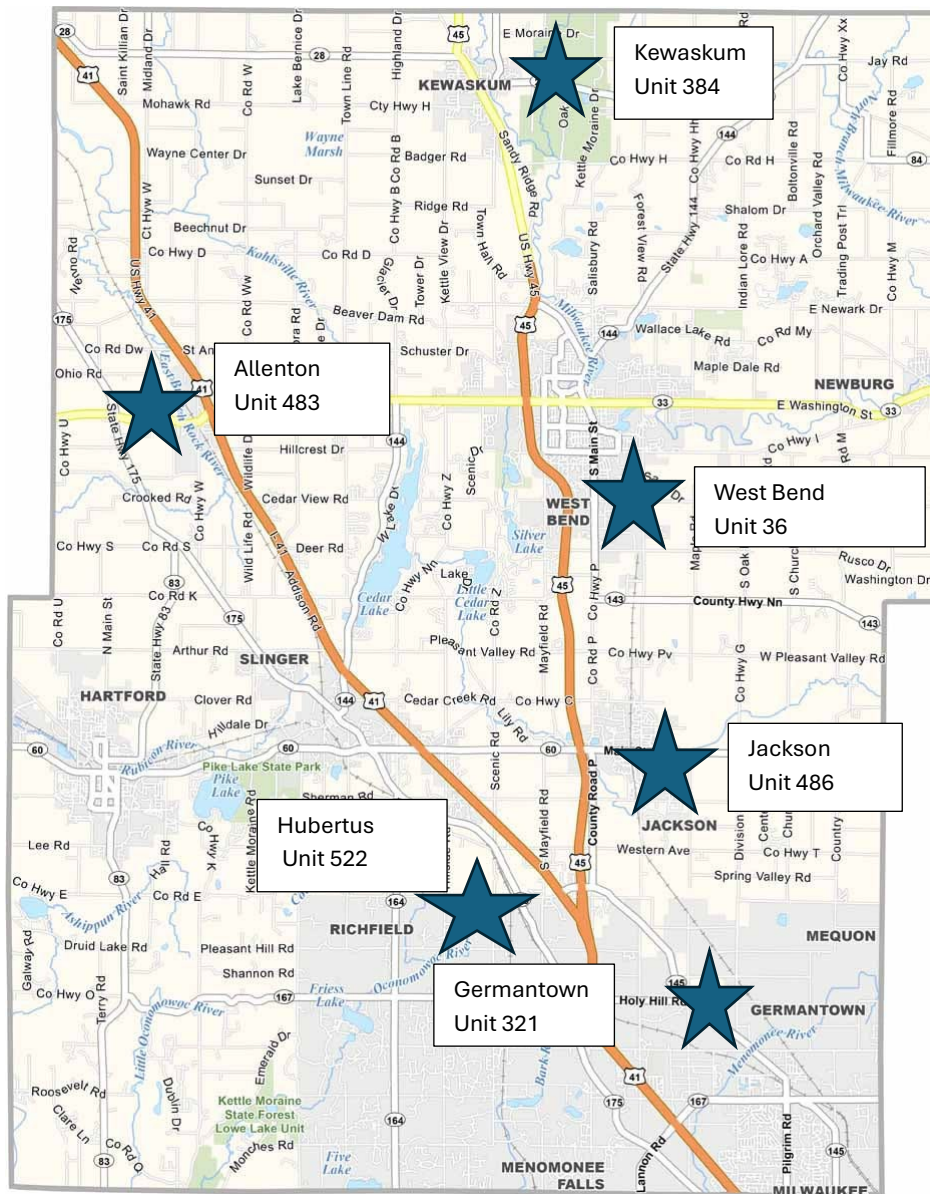
My words of wisdom are to “Look to the future”, “Embrace changes as they arise” and “Don’t be afraid to ask for guidance – there are many wonderful people who have traveled this path before us and are willing to help”

Thank you all who have helped me on this journey. I look forward to learning more about our organization in my future endeavors.

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 Washington County.





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

The ALA County Executive Board is – President Laura Van Swol, Vice President Rosenda Lazcano, Secretary Teri McElroy and Treasurer Betty Clement.

The Unit Presidents are – Rosenda Lazcano, Allenton, Kathy Peck, Germantown, Cheryl Jacobs, Hubertus, Shelley Baertlein, Jackson, Tammy Feller, Kewaskum, and Carolyn Schatz, West Bend.



ALA MEMBERSHIP Eligibility Changes

SAME MISSION. MORE FAMILIES. A STRONGER TOMORROW.

More
Families
Can
Belong!

WHAT'S NEW?

These family relationships are now gender-neutral and may be male or female.

 Grandmother → Grandparent

 Mother → Parent

 Sister → Sibling

 Daughter → Child

 Granddaughter → Grandchild

 Adopted relationships are eligible. 

STILL NOT ELIGIBLE



Male veterans
under their own service.



Nieces, nephews,
aunts and uncles.



Sister or brother-in-laws
are not eligible.

WHAT STAYS THE SAME?



LIVING VETERANS

The veteran must still be a member of The American Legion.



DECEASED VETERANS

The veteran must have served during an applicable War Era and been honorably discharged or died in service.



FEMALE VETERANS

May join under their own service without being a member of The American Legion, unless someone is joining under their service (the Living Veteran requirement applies).



SPOUSES

Male or female spouses of veterans remain eligible (since 2019).



TWO DEGREES OF CONSANGUINITY MEANS:

Great-grandparents, great-grandchildren or any further generations are not included. This is *per IRS requirement 2019*.



APPLICATION VERIFICATION

6/3/26

The **American Legion Auxiliary Unit Secretary** or other unit officer may verify the eligibility of a potential member and sign the application.



GET THE UPDATED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Visit the ALA Department of Wisconsin website
www.amlegionauxwi.org



Programs → Membership → New Member: Application

SERVICE ★ ADVOCACY ★ COMMUNITY ★ TOGETHER FOR VETERANS



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	WINNER
75%	1 Unit	\$100.00	Sept. 30, 2026	Milwaukee Unit 1, District 5
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.ALforVeterans.org, or they can pay their membership chairperson at their Unit.

2027 Membership as of 9/29/2026

100% UNIT		2027 Membership processed as of 09/29/26						
		UNIT	CITY	2027 GOAL	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT
02	Columbia	62	Columbus	16	0	6	6	37.50%
		187	Wisconsin Dells	38	0	17	17	44.74%
		208	Rio	33	0	25	25	75.76%
		215	Pardeeville	37	2	24	26	70.27%
		216	Lodi	37	3	14	17	45.95%
		271	Poynette	23	0	10	10	43.48%
		401	Cambria	47	0	29	29	61.70%
		Total		231	5	125	130	56.28%
	Dodge	15	Juneau	56	0	11	11	19.64%
		69	Mayville	86	1	25	26	30.23%
		146	Beaver Dam	74	0	4	4	5.41%
		157	Horicon	85	0	15	15	17.65%
		270	Theresa	26	0	0	0	0.00%
		347	Lomira	31	0	3	3	9.68%
		420	Hustisford	15	0	0	0	0.00%
		521	Fox Lake	99	0	38	38	38.38%
	Total		472	1	96	97	20.55%	
	Jefferson	67	Lake Mills	46	0	6	6	13.04%
		164	Jefferson	31	0	6	6	19.35%
		166	Fort Atkinson	53	0	5	5	9.43%
		189	Watertown	78	0	24	24	30.77%
		233	Waterloo	41	2	24	26	63.41%
		305	Johnson Creek	26	0	2	2	7.69%
		Total		275	2	67	69	25.09%
	Ozaukee	82	Port Washington	73	2	25	27	36.99%
		288	Cedarburg	152	10	90	100	65.79%
		355	Grafton	169	6	44	50	29.59%
		410	Fredonia	18	0	15	15	83.33%
		412	Belgium	28	0	2	2	7.14%
		457	Mequon-Thiensville	39	1	12	13	33.33%
		470	Saukville	135	0	45	45	33.33%
		Total		614	19	233	252	41.04%
	Sheboygan	83	Sheboygan	34	9	11	20	58.82%
		145	Random Lake	13	0	1	1	7.69%
		149	Sheboygan Falls	30	0	14	14	46.67%
		243	Plymouth	127	0	23	23	18.11%
		387	Franklin	43	2	24	26	60.47%
		462	Adell	12	0	7	7	58.33%
		Total		259	11	80	91	35.14%
	Washington	36	West Bend	24	0	6	6	25.00%
		321	Germantown	35	0	3	3	8.57%
		384	Kewaskum	78	13	20	33	42.31%
		483	Allenton	91	0	9	9	9.89%
		486	Jackson	76	1	20	21	27.63%
		522	Hubertus	27	0	2	2	7.41%
		Total		331	14	60	74	22.36%
Total				2182	52	661	713	32.68%