



Auxiliary Newsletter

February 2026

Issue 07

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From the President's Desk

I was a first-time attendee of the Legion Family Mid-Winter Conference. A lot of good information was presented – in a setting where questions were welcomed and sharing of experiences was encouraged. It is held after the holidays and start of the new year- which is a great time of year to recharge your batteries and prepare a mental list of things to accomplish in the upcoming year. I encourage all interested Auxiliary members to attend next year. I want to personally invite all Unit Presidents and County Presidents to participate, gain information, learn how to grow yourself and your Unit/County.

During the last few weeks' cold snap, I couldn't help but think of our veterans and those currently serving the United State of America. When many of us wanted to stay in bed and not go outdoors, the men and women of our armed forces were out in the elements completing their missions and performing their duties. Also remember our homeless Veterans who are struggling daily to keep things in perspective while trying to better themselves.

Stay warm!

Kathy Olson

Dates to Remember

- February** – Black History Month
- February 3, 2026** – Four Chaplains Day
- February 4, 2026** – USO Birthday
- February 16, 2026** – President's Day
- February 19, 2026** – Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

Chaplain's Corner

District 2 Chaplain

Natalia Genovesi King

FEBRUARY

United in Sacrifice: Honoring the Four Chaplains Who Gave Everything for Their Brothers in Arms

February 3, Four Chaplains Day*, serves as a solemn day of remembrance for the American Legion Family, honoring the courage and selflessness of the four chaplains who gave their lives to save others. When the USAT Dorchester was struck by a torpedo from the German U-223 on the morning of February 3, 1943, the men aboard faced certain death. With life vests in short supply, the four chaplains removed their own to offer them to others, ensuring that as many lives as possible were spared. As the ship sank, survivors would later recount seeing the chaplains, arms linked, bracing against the slanting deck, praying and singing hymns-heroes in their final moments.

As we pause to honor the sacrifice of these four chaplains-representing the Catholic, Dutch Reformed, Jewish, and Methodist faiths-let us remember their unwavering courage, selfless service, and unity in the face of unimaginable adversity. In a time when our nation seems divided, their example stands as a powerful reminder of the strength found in solidarity. Let us come together in a prayer taken from the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation:

God of our 4 Fathers and our God,

We thank You for the unity that the U.S.A.T DORCHESTER Chaplains, these four men of God, demonstrated in life and in death. Unity that is not uniformity. Unity that strengthens within each of us every worthy loyalty of faith and practice. Unity that transcends all our differences and makes us one in loyalty to our country and our fellowmen, and to you, our God. Grant us now your abiding presence, and may we remain faithful to the spirit of our Four Chaplains who, having learned to live and serve together, in death were not divided.

Amen.

*To learn more about Four Chaplains Day, visit the American Legion Auxiliary Blog at:

<https://www.legion-aux.org/Blog/The-Four-Chaplains-Saving-others-with-a-selfless-a?guid=b5ed00b1-e69e-4636-9e53-5e28292ef6c1>



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...

Shannon Wynveen is our 2nd District Historian.

Shannon has been a member of the Kupfahl-Meyer-Scheib Unit 387 in Franklin, WI (Sheboygan County) for 44 years.

Shannon is currently the Unit President for Franklin Unit 387. She previously held the positions of County President and District Junior Activities Chairman.

She is eligible to be a member from her grandfather (Orville Knoener), who served in the Army during the Korean War.



District 2 Spring County Conferences

The dates for the District 2 Spring County Conferences have been set. Following are the dates –

Columbia – April 18, 2026 @ Lodi

Dodge – March 28, 2026 @ Juneau

Jefferson – April 15, 2026 @ Lake Mills

Ozaukee – April 4, 2026 @ Peter Wollner Post 288, Cedarburg

Sheboygan – April 4

Washington – March 21, 2026

District 2 Spring Conference – April 25, 2026 @ Fort Atkinson

SPRING
CONFERENCE



DON'T MISS THE EXCITEMENT!



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

National Security Contest

Your Unit Can Shine By Taking
On These Patriotic Challenges!



- HONOR AND REMEMBER OUR POW/MIA HEROES AT EVER' MEETING AND GATHERING.
- BRING POW/MIA AWARENESS TO YOUR COMMUNITY THROUGH EVENTS, ARTICLES, AND CEREMONIES.
- PRESENT A BLUE STAR BANNER TO A LOCAL MILITARY FAMILY AND RECOGNIZE ANY GOLD STAR FAMILIES.
- CELEBRATE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS ENTERING THE MILITARY WITH CORDS, BANNERS, OR SPECIAL RECOGNITION.

Complete all 4 and your Unit earns a certificate of recognition! When you're done, the Unit President can share a short recap and photos with the Program Chairman at bobshape@aol.com or 414-899-4067.



BONUS CHALLENGE:

SUBMIT A SALUTE TO SERVICEMEMBERS AWARD NOMINATION TO HONOR A SERVICEMEMBER WHO GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR BOTH COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY.



Finish all 5 items and your Unit enters the grand-prize drawing: a visit from the Program Chairman, complete with food provided! Top Units will also be considered for National Security Program of the Year honors. The District with the highest percentage of Units completing Items 1-4 earns an ALA Table Banner.

Legislative Article

Election season is ramping up. Be prepared for political ads and mailings. Watch for who is paying for the ads as one check for bias and a private agenda. Be alert and aware.

The Non-partisan Primary is Feb. 17th. This ballot will include the contested races that are not based on party lines. For example, if you have 3 candidates running for a single school board position the race will be on the primary ballot. If only 2 candidates for a position – no primary. The Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice race has only two candidates so that will be decided in the General Election on April 7th.

Please send pictures (via email NOT Facebook) of your unit members working on the polls, meeting with elected officials and candidates for inclusion in my reports to National. I am proud of what our Auxiliary members do to advocate for our veterans and military.

This Spring Election is the local and school board elections and the Judgeship elections across the state. Judges are to be non-partisan in their ruling, so it is especially important we know their stance on issues. They are the ones that interpret the laws and how they affect us and our communities.

Continue reporting your contacts locally, statewide, and via Grassroots. Wisconsin is routinely in the top 5 for action alerts. Keep up the excellent work in making your voice heard. The Washington DC Conference is Feb. 28- March 4, 2026, and your impact will be felt.

EXCITING NEWS – For our 1st quarter of our 250 challenge I received reports of over 760 contacts made on all levels. It was a close battle, but the **WINNER is 6th District!** Keep up the great work. The 2nd Quarter winner will be announced in April.

Check out both our Department and National websites for additional resources or contact me directly. Betty Mueller clarenceandbecky@aol.com call/text 920-464-0320

Great Job everyone – stay warm.

Becky Mueller

Dept of WI Legislative Chair



Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules

Mary Montag, District 2 Chairperson

Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules are the governing documents for your level of the American Legion Auxiliary. These documents should be able to help you with any issue that arises. From when we meet, what makes up a quorum, how do we handle disruptive member, who is eligible to be in the organization, what are my duties as an officer, how much does it cost to be a member, and when are elections. Any member should be able to reference the documents and be able to answer any of these questions.

A Unit's/County's/District's Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules should reflect what is happening in their Unit/County/District. But the National and Department Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules are used if a topic is not covered in the Unit's/County's/District. A Unit/County/District should still have all topics on the checklist covered in their documents. The Constitution & Bylaws checklist can be found on the following page or on the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary website. Further guidance can be found in the *Red Book* under Unit Organization Guidelines.

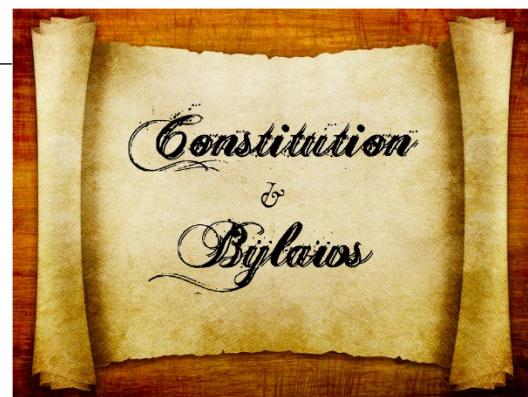
The National ALA has updated their National Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules handbook, the revised date is October 2025. Review this book to make sure that you are staying consistent with the National procedure. The revised handbook can be found on the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary website under Programs, Constitution and Bylaws and then clicking on the option for National.

The Department ALA has updated their Department Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules handbook, the revised date is July 2025. They can be found in the *Red Book*.

Once you have reviewed your documents and made any corrections needed. You must follow *Roberts Rules of Order* for the Constitution and Bylaws. A copy of the revised documents must be provided to all members 30 days or more prior to voting. After the 30 days changes must be voted on, your governing documents will state what percentage of votes are needed to pass the changes. Standing Rules can be changed and voted on at any meeting (by the appropriate percentage of votes, according to your governing documents) and do not need a 30-day delay.

Once you have reviewed and or corrected your Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules you must email a copy to the Department Chairman. Your documents will then be reviewed for compliance with the National and Department documents and a copy added to your unit's file at department headquarters.

Article submitted by Kristy Wakeman





CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS CHECKLIST

Does your Constitution & By-Laws address these topics? Check off the items covered by your document. Add the topics that are missing.

- 1. Preamble to the Constitution
- 2. Name of the Organization
- 3. Nature of the Organization
- 4. Who is eligible?
 - include proper eligibility dates
 - include proper relatives
 - specify junior and senior classes of membership
- 5. Officers
 - who are the officers
 - which officers are elected
 - which officers are appointed
 - when/how often are elections
 - what kind of vote
- 6. Describe the Executive Committee
 - power, quorum, meeting requirements
 - procedures for filling vacancies
- 7. Duties and powers of the Officers
- 8. Dues
- 9. Meetings (quorum, special meetings, annual elections)
- 10. Elections
- 11. Committees
- 12. Transfers
- 13. Discipline
- 14. Parliamentary Authority
- 15. How can the document be amended?

Year End Reporting

The end of the reporting year for the American Legion Auxiliary is **March 31, 2026**.

Each member will need to complete a *2025-2026 Member Year-End Impact Numbers Report* and turn it in to the Unit President by **April 1, 2026**.

This report will show how many hours you volunteered, dollars you spent/donated and mileage you drove for the past 12 months (April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026). There are 4 different categories that this information will fall under. They are - Service for Veterans/Active-Duty/Reserve Military, Service for Military Families, Service for Youth and Service Representing the ALA in My Community. The mileage is for miles driven in providing the service in the four categories (not for attending regular meetings).

Some examples under each category are:

- Service for Veterans/Active-Duty/Reserve Military - shopping for and preparing care packages for deployed troops, **helping wounded warriors or elderly veterans at home, providing transportation, military send-off and welcome-home events, parades**, projects for homeless veterans, **activities related to distributing poppies**, recording veteran histories, raising money for the Veterans Creative Arts Festival, fundraising events that benefit veterans (such as Walk, Run & Roll), assisting with veterans hiring fairs, advocating for The American Legion legislative agenda that supports veterans and the military
- Service for Military Families - programs for military and veterans' children, helping Family Support Groups, supporting adopt-a-military-family projects, military spouse hiring fairs, organizing and delivering hero packs, providing child care for military activities, distributing Blue Star Banners
- Service for Youth - Junior Activities, **classroom and patriotic activities for children**, camps open to all children, **raising funds for or promoting Legion Family activities like ALA Badger Girls State**
- Service Representing the ALA in My Community - **blood drives, walks/runs, food pantries**

There are twenty-one different programs that you need to provide a report for (example, if you have given certificates to the local businesses that are “I Spy Stars & Stripes” for flying the flag you will include that in the Americanism Program Report Forms not under the Member Year-End Impact Report).

The Unit Presidents will have a new online format to report the program activities. A packet will be available with how to complete the Reports online.



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.

Units can begin having their members pay their 2026 membership dues. 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.

Encourage early payment of membership dues to be eligible for a Unit "Navigation/Compass" Award. Membership dues must be at Department Headquarters PRIOR to the goal date to be considered eligible and the Unit must have the 2025-2026 Unit Officer Form submitted to Department with officers' dues paid to be eligible. One Unit will be awarded \$100.00.

75% is paid by September 15, 2025 – **winner Berlin Unit #340, District 6**

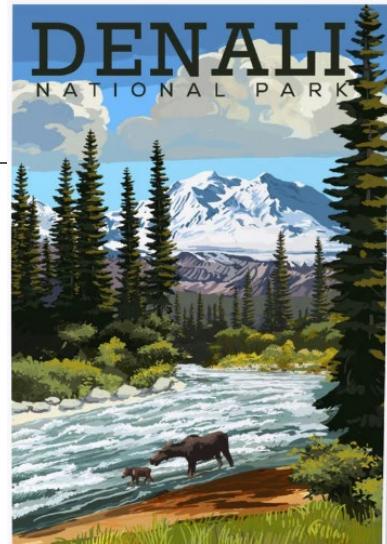
85% is paid by October 15, 2025 – **winner Coleman Unit #280, District 9**

95% is paid by November 15, 2025 – **winner DeForest Unit #348, District 3**

100% is paid by December 15, 2025 – **winner Delafield Unit #196, District 1.**

There is also a "Park Pass" Award. If a Unit has 100% membership dues to Department Headquarters PRIOR to December 31, 2025, you will receive 2 entries per Unit or January 31, 2026, you will receive 1 entry per Unit. The Unit must also have their 2025-2026 Unit Officer from on file at Department Headquarters. The "Park Pass" Award will be one winner, selected at random on February 14, 2026, to receive:

- Two Paid Department Convention registrations
- One paid room for a 2-night stay at the Hilton Appleton Paper Valley Hotel
- Two passes for Saturday night's (July 18, 2026) Commander's party
- Special Convention recognition.



Membership as of 1/13/2026

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!!

100% UNIT		2026 Membership processed as of 01/13/26						
		UNIT	CITY	2026 GOAL	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT
02	Columbia	0062	Columbus	16	0	13	13	81.25%
		0187	Wisconsin Dells	38	1	32	33	86.84%
		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	24	24	96.00%
		0401	Cambria	48	3	45	48	100.00%
		Total		238	10	206	216	90.76%
Dodge	Dodge	0015	Juneau	67	4	33	37	55.22%
		0069	Mayville	85	2	68	70	82.35%
		0146	Beaver Dam	78	6	60	66	84.62%
		0157	Horicon	86	5	51	56	65.12%
		0270	Theresa	30	6	18	24	80.00%
		0347	Lomira	34	1	27	28	82.35%
		0420	Hustisford	17	0	15	15	88.24%
		0521	Fox Lake	98	3	85	88	89.80%
		Total		495	27	357	384	77.58%
Jefferson	Jefferson	0067	Lake Mills	51	0	43	43	84.31%
		0164	Jefferson	33	0	23	23	69.70%
		0166	Fort Atkinson	52	2	47	49	94.23%
		0189	Watertown	82	7	60	67	81.71%
		0233	Waterloo	39	7	30	37	94.87%
		0305	Johnson Creek	27	0	21	21	77.78%
		Total		284	16	224	240	84.51%
Ozaukee	Ozaukee	0082	Port Washington	70	4	67	71	101.43%
		0288	Cedarburg	159	11	131	142	89.31%
		0355	Grafton	155	11	119	130	83.87%
		0410	Fredonia	18	0	18	18	100.00%
		0412	Belgium	31	0	26	26	83.87%
		0457	Mequon-Thiensville	53	4	34	38	71.70%
		0470	Saukville	155	1	119	120	77.42%
		Total		641	31	514	545	85.02%
Sheboygan	Sheboygan	0083	Sheboygan	32	10	25	35	109.38%
		0145	Random Lake	20	1	13	14	70.00%
		0149	Sheboygan Falls	28	0	28	28	100.00%
		0243	Plymouth	135	7	100	107	79.26%
		0387	Franklin	53	4	30	34	64.15%
		0462	Adell	12	0	12	12	100.00%
		Total		280	22	208	230	82.14%
Washington	Washington	0036	West Bend	32	1	24	25	78.13%
		0321	Germantown	39	13	25	38	97.44%
		0384	Kewaskum	75	17	53	70	93.33%
		0483	Allenton	88	10	67	77	87.50%
		0486	Jackson	82	3	48	51	62.20%
		0522	Hubertus	32	1	32	33	103.13%
		Total		348	45	249	294	84.48%
Total				2286	151	1758	1909	83.51%