



**Department of Wisconsin
District Eleven Newsletter**

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Honor our Country Support our Veterans

October / November

* **Prayer:** All praise and thanksgiving to our gracious and almighty God! Lord, we lift up our hearts to You, seeking your presence and protection for the brave men and women of our armed forces and the families who stand behind them. Uphold them and keep them in your precious hands. Be their refuge and guide. Surround them with peace and Your constant companionship.

Grant wisdom, clarity, and compassion to our nation's leaders. May their choices be guided by justice and love. Continue to bless the USA. All praise and thanksgiving forever! Amen.

* **ReCap of Fall Conference:** October 4th was a beautiful day in Park Falls. Thank you to all who attended the Conference and thank you to Unit / Post #182 for a superb job of hosting. We only wish that more members could have joined us! The reports were informative. The basket raffle and fun activities were great. The lunch was delicious. We were able to make generous donations to Camp American Legion, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, the Homeless Female Veterans Grant Fund, and American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State. Please mark your calendar for the **Spring Conference scheduled for April 25, 2026, in Three Lakes.**

* **Update email addresses / phone numbers:** When sending out this mailing or other communications, we get "not deliverable" messages for several email addresses or no answer for some phone numbers. District and Department leadership asks that you please update your contact information, so that we are able to get in touch with you. My contact information is in the heading of this Newsletter. Thank you for taking care of this matter.

* **Membership:** 2025 Membership Award certificates and ribbons were handed out at the Fall Conference along with 100% "bling eyeglasses". Congrats to the 8 units that got these awards! A big "Shout Out" to Unit #464 Land O Lakes who is already at **129% for 2026 membership**. They are currently number one in the Department of Wisconsin. Several units are getting close to 100%. Kennan Unit 362 is at 85%. Lublin Unit 547 is over 50% and Odanah Unit 25 says they are sending in a check for full payment of all members this week. **Our 2026 goal is to have everyone paid for the new year prior to the end of 2025.** It's a lofty goal, but the Eleventh District can do it! Department President Sue Hembrook is honoring the 250th birthday of the USA by having each District focus on one of the beautiful National Parks. Eleventh District is "**Hiking the Redwood National Park**" toward 100% Membership. With a tri-fold board visual our units are hiking the Redwood National Park amid the towering Redwood trees. Each unit is shown with hiking boots and a Park Ranger's hat as we "hike" toward that 100%. Don't let your unit stand at the bottom of the trees. Check with your unit's membership chairman for Department incentives and awards. Good Luck!

* **Veterans Day:** This patriotic holiday, November 11th, honors all Veterans. What will your American Legion family do to celebrate and thank Veterans in a special way? Whether Veterans served in the Army (formed in June 1775), the Navy (formed in October 1775), the Marines (formed in November 1775), the Coast Guard (formed in 1790), the Air Force (formed in 1947), or the Space Force (formed in 2019), they all loved our country, our freedoms, and our people enough to risk their lives for us. Let's attend assemblies and celebrations to say thank you and to show that we love them, too!

* **Community Service:** This is an American Legion Auxiliary program that every unit can easily work. Community Service is at the heart of our core beliefs and an integral part of our Preamble "...to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation..." If your unit members volunteer at church or school, sew or knit for a nursing home, donate food for a food drive, provide a ride to a neighbor, *etc.* they are performing Community Service. Don't forget to keep track of hours and donations and **Report!**

* **Legislative Program:** The Legislative program is one of the most effective ways for individual Auxiliary members to advocate for our Veterans and Military. Members may send letters and/or emails to their state representatives in the Assembly or Senate. Hold them accountable to work for Veteran and Military benefits. Any citizen may subscribe to their representatives' email newsletters, answer their surveys and attend town hall meetings. If visiting the Capital, stop in to visit them. Request a FREE Blue Book and use it for vital information. Also, sign up for the American Legion Action Center – this site makes it easy to send emails to your federal legislators concerning the top priorities of TAL committee. You are able to send emails every 24 hours to keep these issues at the forefront of the agenda. Contact 2025-2026 ALA Department Legislative Chm. Becky Mueller, to learn more. clarenceandbecky@aol.com

* **PR:** Get the computer savvy member(s) of your unit to set up a Facebook page for communications. Use social media including pictures to highlight your ALA activities. Our District PR chair is Nancy Schultz of Butternut Unit 272. Contact Nancy nanc.14869@yahoo.com about the District Facebook page. At Department level the PR chair is Natalia Genovesi King kinggenovesi@gmail.com. She will be holding a Public Relations Zoom Chat on October 29, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m. You may jump in and join at anytime and stay for as little or as long as you like. Topics for this Zoom will be Branding, Zoom etiquette, PR & Membership synergy. Have fun and learn many things from Natalia and other enthusiastic members.

* **ALABGS: Information** on the 2026 session of ALA Badger Girls State will be sent out in October to all participating High Schools. Units will receive information in November. The fee to sponsor a delegate to this premier Americanism program will remain at \$500 which includes all lodging, food, and materials for the delegate. The reservation and fee will be due to Department Headquarters in January. UW-Oshkosh will remain the hosting campus. Hopefully, you have invited the delegates that your unit sponsored last session to report about their experiences at one of your meetings. The girls that gave reports to my unit were grateful for their “life changing” experience forming the mythical state of Badger along with 500 peers from throughout Wisconsin. For information on ALABGS contact Dept. Chm. Dany Thompson alabgs.chairman@gmail.com

* **Americanism:** Does your unit sponsor the Americanism Essay Contest? The title for the Americanism Essay Contest this year is “**Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday and the Veterans who Fought for our Freedom**”. Forms are available on the Department website: www.amlegionauxwi.org

* **MidWinter:** The American Legion’s Midwinter Conference will be held January 16-18, 2026, at the Oneida Hotel, Green Bay, WI. Check The American Legion’s website for registration and lodging information. The Auxiliary sessions will be held on **Saturday, January 17th**. An important session will be about the new annual reporting. It is important that at least one of your unit members have a computer, as reports will be submitted via computer. This will save paperwork and postage. Get your younger or computer savvy members to attend this Conference. Perhaps your unit might consider paying their registration and/or lodging. Then they can be the person(s) to help the unit president and treasurer with this annual reporting task. It is very important that **all** units report. Reported numbers eventually end up before Congress and help to determine benefits for Veterans.

