



# Bi-Monthly Unit Mailing February/March 2022

This mailing includes:

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- Resolution instructions & blank form
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## **American Legion Auxiliary Mission Statement:**

In the spirit of Service, Not Self the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

The Monthly Unit Mailing is posted on the Wisconsin Department website under the Unit Mailing link.

[www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org)

# Message from Department President Diane Weggen...



Special thanks to the Department Leadership team for organizing and presenting the Auxiliary program at Mid-Winter. Neither the cold nor COVID blocked the way. **Both presenters and participants demonstrated a yearning for learning.**

With Leadership Chairman Deanna Farley presiding, attendees were greeted by Central Division National Vice President Denise Delaney-Wrolen, and Department Leadership: TAL Commander Greg Eirich, ALA Department President Diane Weggen, SAL Detachment Commander David Fuller and ALRA President Ray Pasbrig.

Legionnaires, Sons, Riders joined Auxiliary members in small group discussions on aspects of **working together** to engage members, build relationships and membership.

These messages were loud and clear.

1. **Needing The American Legion Family approach** to build a stronger organization. Consciously plan events/fundraisers to include the entire veteran's family playing or working together with other veterans' families. Encourage a family-based culture using the Post as a gathering place.
2. **Training** is necessary for younger and newer members to know what the Auxiliary does and to enhance their active membership.
3. **Listening** is paramount for caring and gathering information.

Other topics of discussion were:

- One Group suggested TAL Family round table event always be a part of Mid-Winter training. For a full report, contact your District President.
- A question that frequently comes up, "Why are there many Post/County/District and Department Level Legion Officers whose spouses, mothers, sisters, children, and grandchildren are not members of the ALA or SAL?"
- Handouts accompanied "Caring for Those Who Care for Others", Constitution & Bylaws and Leadership presentations.

Thank you to all who participated at Mid-Winter: those who came wanting to learn more about the Auxiliary, those who wanted to participate in the American Legion Family round table event and those who wanted to have time with TAL Family and friends.

The **reporting process**: It's time to **engage members**. Reporting is **both** the unit's job **and** that of the president. Check out the report forms on the ALA website. At a meeting, ask members to list the activities or events the unit participated in or sponsored in each of the program areas. (Attending the meeting is a leadership activity.) If you have questions or need assistance, please call any of the Department chairpersons or officers.

When preparing narratives, identify who, what, when, where and why when writing about events, happenings, meetings or incidents. Give specific examples of how the unit and members met the four goals while accomplishing the mission of the Auxiliary. **Goals:** 1) Working together with The American Legion Family, 2) Building relationships within the unit, TAL Family and within the community, 3) Engaging members, and 4) Caring for those who care for others.

Looking ahead: National Volunteer Week is April 17-23, 2022, beginning on Easter Sunday. Brainstorm ideas of how members can Salute, Serve, Celebrate veterans and their families. Service, not self.

April is The American Legion's Children and Youth Month: Partner with your local American Legion Post. They often have events to honor children & youth in April. • National Family Week: The American Legion Family supports National Family Week during the week of Thanksgiving. • Facebook: Join ALA Children & Youth facebook group to share C&Y activities and events, ask questions, and obtain information.

**SAVE THE DATE: June 11, 2022** ♦ Department of Wisconsin President (Diane Weggen) Testimonial  
Hosted by American Legion Auxiliary Cecil Tormey Unit 118

**Location:** Holy Family Hall, 136 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Stanley, WI 54768

**Time:** 5:30 pm for Cocktails ♦ 6:30 pm for Dinner ♦ Program to follow

**Housing:** AmeriVu Inn & Suites, Stanley (715-644-2668); Block of Rooms--Diane Weggen



American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin  
**DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE  
NOMINATION FORM  
DEADLINE: MAY 13, 2022**



Unit Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_ District #: \_\_\_\_\_ City Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit President: \_\_\_\_\_

Person Completing Nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Department President Diane Weggen will be selecting several units for special recognition at the 2022 Department Convention. This is an opportunity for units to share how the unit and/or members *Salute, Serve, Celebrate our veterans, military, their families and the community.*

To be considered for this award, please give specific examples of how the unit and members met the following four goals while supporting the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. **Identify who, what, when, where and why** when writing about events, meetings or activities. Answer the following questions and attach as additional sheets to this nomination form. Include pictures, if available.

**Goal 1: Working Together with The American Legion Family (Legion, ALA, SAL, Legion Riders)**

- With whom did your unit/members plan, coordinate or participate in an event?
- What was the activity?
- Did you plan meetings which included The American Legion Family?
- How many times did your unit work/play with Legionnaires, Sons, and/or Riders?

**Goal 2: Building relationships within the unit, TAL Family and within the community**

- With whom and how did your unit build relationships?
- How did your unit connect with the community?
- How many connections were made and how did those support the ALA mission?

**Goal 3: Engaging members**

- How did you involve members at a meeting, event, or fundraiser?
- What was done to make members feel included?
- How did your unit engage members who did not attend meetings?

**Goal 4: Caring for those who care for others**

- Identify ways your unit/members cared for others.
- How did you demonstrate caring for caregivers?
- How many "Caring" certificates did you present and to whom?

**Completed nomination forms and narratives (with pictures, if available) must be postmarked no later than Friday, May 13, 2022 for consideration.**

**Mail to Diane Weggen, 16266 361<sup>st</sup> Street, Stanley, WI 54768**



## GREETINGS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bonnie Dorniak

Website: [www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org) ♦ Email: [deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org](mailto:deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org) ♦ Phone: 608-745-0124

**CANDIDATES FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICE:** Candidates for Department office must email their announcement with a head and shoulder photo to [deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org](mailto:deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org) by March 21, 2022, for publication in the *Wisconsin*. Announcements should be 300-350 words.

**POPPY ORDERS:** A limited supply of poppies is still available, so late orders will be filled in the order received until poppies are gone. If you ordered poppies in the past but have not submitted a 20% poppy profit report to department, your order will be delayed until that report is received.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICES:** Members who have not paid their 2022 dues are now delinquent and have lost all privileges of membership, including the right to hold office, vote on unit matters, receive AEF assistance, or bowl in the annual 9-pin Tap Bowling Tournament (on no!). Family members may not realize that if their loved one passes before paying his/her 2022 dues, they **cannot have an Auxiliary memorial service or grave marker**. The Unit may want to pay dues for their older members who can no longer afford to maintain their membership (honorary life membership).

The national organization mailed the final 2022 membership dues renewal notices in early February. To expedite processing, members may pay by phone (National HQ: 317-569-4570, Monday through Friday, 7:00 am – 3:30 pm) or online at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org). Questions about paying online should be directed to [alahq@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:alahq@ALAforVeterans.org). If a unit receives dues, they should immediately forward them to department using a Membership Transmittal Form.

**ALA BADGER GIRLS STATE:** Unit reservation forms were due January 31, 2022 with payments of \$350 per delegate. If you forgot to submit your reservation(s), please do so today!

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS:** Department and National Scholarship applications are due from students to Unit Presidents by March 1st. Unit Presidents should ensure the applications are completed correctly and all necessary attachments are included before signing and forwarding them to Education Chairman Chrys Porter by March 15th. Late applications will not be considered. Visit the department website for details.

**PPP SCHOLARSHIP FUND:** Units that want to support the Past Presidents Parley Scholarships designated for students pursuing an education in nursing or health careers should mail a check with the donation form located in this mailing. Unit donations help ensure this opportunity can be continued as the need for nurses and healthcare workers becomes even more demanding.

**ANNUAL REPORTS:** Annual Reports were mailed to all units in November and can be accessed from the department website. There are two types of reports:

- 1) UNIT YEAR-END IMPACT REPORT – a **numeric** report that the national organization uses to report the Auxiliary's impact to Congress. Every Unit President should submit a Unit Year-End Impact Report to their **District President by April 15<sup>th</sup>**. Late reports cannot be considered. District Presidents must consolidate the information and forward it to Department by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 2) UNIT NARRATIVE REPORTS – **descriptive** reports used to explain a unit's activities. Unit Narrative Reports are due to **department headquarters by April 15<sup>th</sup>**. There is one report for each Auxiliary program. If a unit does not work a particular program, simply complete the Unit information at the top of the form and leave the questions blank. Department will sort and forward the reports to the appropriate program chairmen.

**CONTESTS & AWARDS:** Contests & Awards information was included in the Program Action Plans packet that was mailed to all units in November. The plans are also posted on the department website. Questions? Please contact the appropriate program chairmen as listed in the mailing.

**DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE:** President Diane Weggen encourages units to apply for a Department President's Award for Excellence which will be presented at Department Convention. Application forms are included in this mailing. PLEASE – be proud of your accomplishments and take time to report them! You cannot be recognized for your efforts if they aren't reported.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE AT DEPARTMENT CONVENTION:** Member Data Forms must be submitted to Headquarters by May 1<sup>st</sup> for deceased members to be included in the Department Convention Memorial Book.

# **ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE**



- **APRIL 15 – UNIT YEAR-END IMPACT REPORT  
DUE TO DISTRICT PRESIDENT**
- **APRIL 15 - NARRATIVE REPORT - DUE TO  
DEPARTMENT HQ**
- **MAY 1 – DISTRICT YEAR-END REPORT DUE TO  
DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS**

**NARRATIVE PROGRAM REPORTS MUST BE  
SUBMITTED ON SEPARATE PAGES**

**ANNUAL REPORT FORMS CAN BE ACCESSED ON THE  
ALA WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT WEBSITE:**

**[www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org)**



American Legion Auxiliary-Department of Wisconsin  
2022 American Legion Auxiliary Convention



## RESOLUTIONS - INSTRUCTIONS

A resolution is a main motion, offered as a resolution either because of its importance or because of its length or complexity. Resolutions for this reason should always be prepared in writing.

Resolutions usually are comprised of two parts, the preamble and the resolved clause(s). However, a preamble is not required for a resolution to be proper. The preamble explains the reasons for the motion, and each idea or reason therein begins with “Whereas.” The “Resolved” clause is the motion itself and would be written as a motion.

The Bylaws of the Department of Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary (Article II, Section 1) require that:

4. The Department President shall, not less than 30 days prior to the annual Department Convention, appoint a Resolutions Committee consisting of five members chosen from the delegates.
  - a. Resolutions presented by an individual member must be approved by the Unit or District to which the member belongs. Resolutions must be received at Department by June 1. Copies of these resolutions shall be transmitted to Units not less than 30 days before Department Convention.
  - b. Any resolution not approved by a Unit or District, or when the district conference is held after June 1, must be approved by the appropriate Department Chair of the program to which the resolution pertains. The Department Chair will submit approved resolutions to the Resolutions Committee for consideration.
  - c. The Resolutions Committee will forward any approved resolutions with a financial impact to the Finance Committee for their approval.

Once the Resolutions Committee and other appropriate chairs/committees have acted on all resolutions, the Resolutions Chair will report recommendations to the convention delegates.



American Legion Auxiliary-Department of Wisconsin  
2022 American Legion Auxiliary Convention



# RESOLUTION

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Submitted by:

Unit Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ Dist. # \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Resolution # \_\_\_\_\_

Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of UNIT President/Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of DISTRICT President/Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY:

Committee Chair Name & Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  Approved  Rejected  Revised

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  Approved  Rejected  Revised

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  Approved  Rejected  Revised

Convention Action:  Approved  Rejected Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## EDUCATION

Chrys Porter, Department Chairman  
Ph: 715-797-1289 ♦ Email: [momchrys@gmail.com](mailto:momchrys@gmail.com)

WOW! Where has the time gone? We are in the final stretch of the school year and need to make sure our students know about our scholarships. Make sure to reach out through your school district to get the word out so that the students understand they are available to them to apply for, and the deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup> to all Unit Presidents.

Unit Presidents need to make sure that the students follow all the rules and guidelines for each scholarship, that packets are complete, and then forward them to me by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Unit Presidents must sign them to make the packet valid. Units may only enter one candidate per scholarship for each National scholarship. However, units can certify as many department scholarship applications as they receive. Applicants may apply for each scholarship they are eligible for. I will be busy in March when I receive all of these!

If you are looking to answer a few questions you can check out the <https://www.legion-aux.org/scholarships>. The National website shows the different scholarships available and can answer a few questions.

One of the questions I have been getting is the SAT/ACT requirement for some of the scholarships. With the pandemic still ongoing, some students have not been able to test for the SAT/ACT, so those requirements are still waived for 2022. If the student has been able to take the test they need to be included in the packet. If the student has been unable to take the test, please state that they are unable due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Don't forget to let your local teachers know how much we appreciate them. Teacher Appreciation week is May 2-6, 2022. I would love to hear and see what you do for the teachers in your area.



**M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan Fund**

Joan Chwala, Department Chairman 2019-2022

ctr68552@centurytel.net

Wisconsin is the only Department with the M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan Fund. As stated before, we count on our units to keep our girls interested in getting the loans and we count on them to reach out to the girls in their units who have loans. We need to show them our support.

Currently, eight students are paying on their loans.

At the time of this writing, (I have not yet received January's donation totals) units have donated over \$1,135. District 10 is the leader for 2021 with \$200. No donations have come from Districts 5, 11, or 12. You can see that more donations are needed to make the dream of M. Louise Wilson come true. Won't your unit consider a donation?

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Send donations to Department Headquarters with this stub.

Make check payable to: **M. Louise Wilson**

Send to: PO Box 140, Portage, WI 53901

City \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

A \$25.00 fee will be charged for any check returned by the bank.

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# Membership

Congratulations ALA Department of WI Members!

The Department of Wisconsin is currently in 5<sup>th</sup> place in the National standings with 82.14%. Central Division ranking finds us currently in 2<sup>nd</sup> place behind Iowa who is at 85.84%, we only have 17.86% memberships needed to be a **100%** Department!

All 2022 membership dues should be paid by now, those members who have not paid, are now considered delinquent and cannot hold an office or chairmanship until their dues are paid.

I am proud to report that we have **338 new members** to our ALA family! Thank you to all who have signed up new junior and senior members! Even though many of our unit meetings are still not back to normal due to lingering effects of Covid, units are working hard renewing memberships and signing up new members, with great success, we **Salute** you for your hard work and enthusiasm!

Speaking of new members, have you presented them with their membership cards, and membership packets? Are they being mentored and welcomed to your unit and events? Take the time to explain the ALA programs, find out what their passion is, invite them to work with you on a unit event or program. Remember, in order to continue being a healthy unit, learn to accept new ideas, speak kind words, and remember to have **fun**, while working the Mission of the ALA!

Consider making **Salute** calls to all your members. Check in, find out how they've been doing, do they have any needs, something picked up from a store, perhaps they would they like a visit, how about having a cup of coffee, to catch up on things. We appreciate our members, they are not a number on a spread sheet, they are part of our ALA family and as a family we need to take care of each other!

Don't forget to check out the Membership tab on the auxiliary website [amlegionauxwi.org](http://amlegionauxwi.org). There you will find certificates to present to members to **Celebrate** their continual years of membership, this is a great way to recognize members. While you are on the website, click on the Program Chairs Plans of Action, there are great ideas for all the ALA programs. If you are feeling adventurous, check out the Program Info tab, again you will find lots of great information and ideas!

Hard to believe that we are only a few months away from reports, here are the questions for your membership report\*

- How is your unit encouraging renewals? Provide three examples.
- What methods of communication has your unit used for increasing membership?
- Did working any of the ALA programs help to generate new members? (Example: Teaching flag etiquette at a school resulted in two teachers joining the ALA.)
- Has your unit implemented new/innovative ideas or practices to increase renewals and/or sign-up new members? If so, what are they? If not, what methods have been used to increase your membership?
- Did your unit work with your Legion Family sharing membership lists/ideas/events

Please include pictures, newspaper articles, and copies of letters to the editor of your local papers. If you cannot answer all the questions, please report what you did, everything you and your members do is important, be proud of what accomplishments your unit has achieved.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Membership Team, we are here to help you.

*We Are the American Legion Auxiliary, For Service Not Self, showering those around us with Kindness. We Serve, Salute and Celebrate our veterans, the military and their families, caring for those who care for others.*

\*Membership report questions can be found at [www.amlegionauxwi.org/dept-chrm-action-plans](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org/dept-chrm-action-plans)

Membership Team

Maggie Geiger, Chairman – [maggieg4ala@gmail.com](mailto:maggieg4ala@gmail.com)

Mary Petrie – [mmtpetrie@charter.net](mailto:mmtpetrie@charter.net)

Margaret Larson – [maggiedoit@hotmail.com](mailto:maggiedoit@hotmail.com)

Andrea Stoltz – [alawi@amlegionauxwi.org](mailto:alawi@amlegionauxwi.org)



# 2022 Celebrate One New Member Award Entry Form

Sign up a **NEW 2022 Senior or Junior Auxiliary** member and be entered into a cash drawing for \$75.

A Set the Course entry may be submitted for EVERY new 2022 member you recruit. 8 winners will be picked at random for a cash prize of \$75.

Entry forms must be received at Department *PRIOR* to May 27, 2022.

TAL and SAL members that recruit a **NEW 2022 AUXILIARY** member are also eligible for the drawing.

Recruiter: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF NEW 2022 MEMBER - Senior or Junior Auxiliary member

\_\_\_\_\_

Transferring and rejoining members **DO NOT** count.

Submit a **separate** Celebrate One entry for EVERY new member you recruit.

Entry forms must be received at Department *PRIOR* to May 27, 2022.

Submit this completed form to: American Legion Auxiliary  
PO Box 140  
Portage, WI 53901  
Fax: 608-745-1947 ♦ Email: [alawi@amlegionauxwi.org](mailto:alawi@amlegionauxwi.org)

**THIS FORM MAY BE DUPLICATED** and is available @ [www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org)



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Congratulates

Years of Continuous Membership  
Serving our Veterans

Membership Year

Thank you for your commitment to enhance the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.

  
Diane Weggen, Department President

  
Maggie Geiger, Department Membership Chairman



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN  
PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901  
Ph: 608-745-0124 ♦ www.amlegionauxwi.org

Unit CITY location \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Dist # \_\_\_\_\_

**2021-2022 Past Presidents Parley Scholarship Fund**

**Make check payable to:**

**➔ ALA - Past Presidents Parley** (from the General Fund)

These scholarships have been made possible through a legacy from Harriet Hubbard and through the Unit’s generous donations.



**Harriet Hubbard Registered Nurse Scholarships** – Applicant must be in nursing school or have positive acceptance to an accredited hospital or university Registered Nurse program.

**Health Career Scholarships** – course of study need not be a 4-year program. Hospital, university or technical school program is acceptable.

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check payable to – **ALA - Past Presidents Parley**

Department will implement a \$25.00 administrative fee for checks returned by the bank



## *Christmas Gift Shop 2021*



### *Another Unusual Year*

When Christmas Gift Shop season started this year, the question was whether we would be able to go back to visiting the veterans in long-term care facilities to help them select the gifts for their families. The answer was pretty much the same. Visitors were still being restricted so Christmas Gift Shop would go on as it did in 2020.

Many people have asked how the program was different this year, so here are a few highlights from a most unusual year of Christmas Gift Shop:

- Gifts were selected for ladies, men, and kids. Pictures were taken of all the items and a “catalog,” complete with descriptions of each item was created and forwarded to the facilities.
- Although gift selections were of approximately the same value as in the past, they needed to be smaller in size and weight for packing and shipping.
- Staff at the various locations assisted the veterans in selecting their gifts, instead of us visiting the veterans and chatting with them.
- When orders were returned, they were organized and still placed on Smile.Amazon.com, with the ALA Foundation as our designated charity.
- When they arrived, they needed to be placed in appropriate size shipping boxes or padded mailers for shipping rather than pretty holiday gift bags.
- A very talented and dedicated group of about 20 volunteers spent about two and a half hours wrapping the 375 gifts that our veterans chose for their loved ones. In past years we had as many as 30+ helping with wrapping.
- All gifts were shipped to one address of the veterans’ family, rather than being delivered back to them to distribute to their loved ones.

What we did and how we did it may have been different again this year, but one thing always remains the same, and that is our commitment to caring for our veterans and their families. The other thing that remains the same is the commitment our units make to keep this great program funded each year. The generosity of our members all over the state have allowed us to continue this program, even under unusual circumstances this year, so that our veterans’ families had the joy of receiving a Christmas gift. Please continue to keep Christmas Gift Shop on your list of donations and feel free to send them to Department anytime, not just around Christmas! Thank you for supporting this great program!

Diana Sirovina  
414-881-9581  
[sirovina@att.net](mailto:sirovina@att.net)

Linda Bartell  
414-427-0238  
[bartell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bartell@sbcglobal.net)



American Legion Auxiliary ♦ Department of Wisconsin  
Legislative Program  
Joanie Dickerson, Department Chairman



Writing to our elected representatives in Congress may seem old-fashioned with all the technology we have available these days but not all members are interested in getting online and using that option. A hand-written letter is still a good way to make our voices heard in Washington, D.C. Included in this mailing is a list of the Senators and Representatives, including their addresses, from Wisconsin. Reach out to both of our senators, they represent all of us, and the representative that serves the district in which you live. Four action items taken from The American Legion Legislative Action Center website are listed along with a description of each that was taken directly from the website. The sample of what you could write in your letter regarding each issue follows the description, also directly from TAL Legislative Action Center website. Let them know that we support positive action on the issues of Buddy Checks, Treatment for Exposure to Toxic Substances, GI Bill Parity for all Reserve and National Guard, VA Health Care Access for all World War II veterans.

Other issues on The American Legion legislative agenda include efforts to improve health care for women veterans, guaranteed pay for our Coast Guard in the event of a government shutdown, the expansion of broadband capabilities and services for veterans in remote areas to better meet their health care needs, and citizenship for veteran immigrants for honorable service in our military.

Contacting our elected representatives regarding issues important to our veterans and their welfare is a significant part of our commitment to *participate in and contribute to the aims and purposes of The American Legion*, as stated in the preamble to our constitution.

**Buddy Check Week** - Our most sacred responsibility as a nation is to care for our fellow men and women who have served this nation with honor. Only with servant leadership and direct contact with our fellow veterans can we uncover the true needs of our warriors and avert potential crisis. The American Legion has long had a "Buddy Check Week," asking our Legionnaires to conduct veteran outreach as part of their daily routine. The American Legion's "Buddy Check" program has been a great tool for our membership, and we strongly support legislation that expands this program to VA.

Both chambers of Congress now have bills that would direct VA to establish a "Buddy Check Week," provide educational opportunities, materials, and references for veterans to learn how to conduct personal wellness checks, as well as require increased resources for the Veterans Crisis Line to handle any potential increased usage during the designated week. The bill is modeled after the American Legion's "Buddy Check National Week of Calling" to connect veterans to better ensure that they receive the care they need.

The American Legion proudly supports this legislation, and asks that you contact your Senators and Representative and tell them to cosponsor and support Buddy Check Week legislation today!

**Buddy Check Week (sample letter)**

Our most sacred responsibility as a nation is to care for our fellow men and women who have served this nation with honor. Only with servant leadership and direct contact with our fellow veterans can we uncover the true needs of our warriors and avert potential crisis. The American Legion has long had a "Buddy Check Week," asking our Legionnaires to conduct veteran outreach as part of their daily routine. The American Legion's "Buddy Check" program has been a great tool for our membership, and we strongly support legislation that expands this program to VA.

This legislation requires VA to establish a "Buddy Check Week," provide educational opportunities, materials, and references for veterans to learn how to conduct personal wellness checks, as well as require increased resources for the Veterans Crisis Line to handle any potential increased usage during the designated week.

The American Legion proudly supports this legislation, and I along with the nearly 2 million members of The American Legion ask that you cosponsor and support S.544/H.R.3405 today.

**Provide for Veterans affected by Toxic Exposure** - The exposure of military personnel to toxic substances, both while deployed overseas or stationed at home has been an ongoing issue across a range of wars and generations. These exposures have resulted in conditions and illnesses among veterans which can have long-lasting effects on health and quality of life. The American Legion has fought an ongoing struggle for service-connected disability benefits for adverse health conditions linked to exposures from various toxic substances.

It took decades for VA to provide relief for veterans of Vietnam exposed to Agent Orange. The U.S. government still has yet to finish its work for Vietnam veterans, and we have begun the cycle anew with the current generation of service members who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Millions of service members have been deployed in the Global War on Terrorism, and a disturbingly high percentage of them have been exposed to toxic hazards during their service, from burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan to radiation exposures at Karshi-Khanabad (K2) in Uzbekistan. Yet, VA has not conducted sufficient studies to determine illnesses and diseases related to various types of toxic chemicals, nor has it begun to develop a list of presumptive conditions.

We must break this cycle of care that is considered "too little, too late" for our veterans. They cannot wait decades to receive the care they need and rightfully deserve.

**Provide for Veterans affected by Toxic Exposure (sample letter)**

As your constituent and a member of the American Legion family, I ask you to co-sponsor the COST of War Act of 2021 and support our veterans suffering from the effects of toxic exposure. Thousands of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have been exposed to toxic chemicals from burn pits. Without congressional action, they are likely to face the same VA red tape and denials that Vietnam Veterans are still fighting against from Agent Orange exposure.

These heroes should not wait decades to receive the care they need and rightfully deserve. The COST of War Act recognizes the federal government's responsibility to provide health care and disability compensation to veterans fighting the effects of toxic exposure connected to their military service by allowing all veterans who were at risk of toxic exposure, including 3.5 million Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, to obtain immediate and lifelong access to health care from VA.

The American Legion proudly supports this legislation, and I along with the nearly 2 million members of The American Legion ask that you to cosponsor and support the COST of War Act today.

**Open the VA to ALL World War II Veterans** - Those who made the Greatest Generation truly great are nearly gone. According to VA's 2021 statistics, of the 16 million U.S. veterans who served during World War II, less than four hundred thousand remain. Most of these veterans are already using VA services – The National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics notes that in 2016 VA's benefits utilization rate for male World War II veterans was 73.6% and 67.3% for female veterans.

You can recognize these remaining heroes with actions far more meaningful than words. The Veterans Health Care Eligibility Act of 1996 exempted all veterans who served during the Mexican Border Period and World War I from the means test required to enter the VA health care system. It is time to do the same for our World War II veterans.

The American Legion has spoken loudly in support of this proposal. Delegates at our 2017 National Convention in Reno, Nev., unanimously passed a resolution calling for an amendment to the 1996 law which would open access for WWII veterans.

The *WWII Veterans Hospital and Medical Eligibility Act* would provide VA health benefits to every veteran of World War II, without bureaucratic meddling.

**Open the VA to ALL World War II Veterans (sample letter)**

As your constituent, I am writing to you about an issue that is very important to me: making sure all WWII veterans can access VA healthcare, without being subjected to means testing, created long after their service that has blocked care for far too many WWII veterans.

Thousands of WWII veterans that have previously received care and services from the VA are no longer able to receive those same services because of means-testing implemented in 1996. Congress has already exempt veterans from the Mexican border period and World War I from the means-testing requirement, and now more than ever it is critical to exempt World War II veterans in this time of need. Our Greatest Generation is also the most at-risk generation in this global pandemic, and we owe a duty to those who have borne the battle to provide them with the healthcare benefits they have earned and deserve.

I along with the nearly 2 million members of The American Legion ask that you support S.1040 today.

**Demand the GI Bill for all Reserve and National Guard** - From protecting borders and Capitals to delivering pandemic aid and supporting local law enforcement, members of our National Guard and Reserve have been challenged over the past two years like never before. Yet despite serving along Active Components, they are denied access to GI Bill benefits. This is due to the outdated notion that National Guard and Reservists should not qualify for "Active-Duty" benefits.

We must discard this misunderstanding of the true nature of citizen service. Our troops that get stretched to the limit serving alongside their active-duty counterparts deserve the same GI Bill eligibility, and it is past time for Congress to provide it to them. The Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act would start to address this benefits disparity by expanding eligibility for the Post-9/11 GI Bill to count every day that a service member is paid and in uniform toward benefit eligibility.

**Demand the GI Bill for all Reserve and National Guard (sample letter)**

As your constituent and a member of the American Legion family, I am writing you today to urge your support on H.R. 1836 Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2021. The past year has brought unprecedented challenges to our National Guard and Reserve service members, and they have met every challenge head-on. Despite this, they are often denied eligibility for GI Bill benefits because their activations are not considered "Active Duty" by the VA.

Our troops that get stretched to the limit serving alongside their active-duty counterparts deserve the same GI Bill eligibility, and it is past time for Congress to provide it to them. The Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act would start to address this benefits disparity by expanding eligibility for the Post-9/11 GI Bill to count every day that a service member is paid and in uniform toward benefit eligibility, The American Legion family proudly supports this legislation, and I along with the nearly 2 million members ask that you support passage of H.R. 1836!

## Members of Congress representing Wisconsin and their addresses

### Senators

Ron Johnson  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Tammy Baldwin  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

### Representatives (HOB = House Office Building)

#### *1<sup>st</sup> District*

Bryan Steil  
1526 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

#### *2<sup>nd</sup> District*

Mark Pocan  
1727 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

#### *3<sup>rd</sup> District*

Ron Kind  
1502 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

#### *4<sup>th</sup> District*

Gwen Moore  
2252 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

#### *5<sup>th</sup> District*

Scott Fitzgerald  
1507 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

#### *6<sup>th</sup> District*

Glenn Grothman  
1427 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

#### *7<sup>th</sup> District*

Thomas P Tiffany  
1719 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

#### *8<sup>th</sup> District*

Mike Gallagher  
1230 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515



## STANDING RULES

Char Kiesling, Department Chairman  
[char.kiesling@gmail.com](mailto:char.kiesling@gmail.com)



In accordance with the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wisconsin RED BOOK, each unit is encouraged to develop their own individual standing rules. This is helpful in further governing the membership body as well as assisting existing and future officers, chairmen and members in the unit's usual and general practices, past and present. These are not included in the unit by-laws and are much easier to add to or change as circumstances change.

A suggested outline follows to make it easier to gather and organize your ideas and whatever you feel should be added to fit your unit's needs:

**CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES:** elect or appoint delegates, allowance for delegates, reports following event?

**DONATIONS:** List routine donations to local, Department, National programs, or projects.

**DUES:** what amount covering unit, Department and National governing documents. Rules should include a dollar amount what portion of dues are there to cover Department and National dues.

**HOSPITALITY:** at meetings, refreshments, etc.

**POPPY PROGRAM:** remember to send 20% of poppy profits to Department Auxiliary headquarters. If POPPY DAYS duties and efforts are shared with the Legion Post, divide the net profits after 20% and any expenses incurred.

**VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION AND CHILDREN & YOUTH:** list duties of the VA & R and C&Y chairmen.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** duties of other chairman, memorial gifts and sunshine gifts, Past President's pin or gift to outgoing President, colors to be at funerals or convention.

I have received and reviewed 9 new and updated Standing Rules and have sent them on to Department for filing. Good job to all. Remember make these rules useful and as many as required to clarify your unit's desires!



Learn to recognize the caregivers around you—  
you may be one yourself!

**Did you know?**

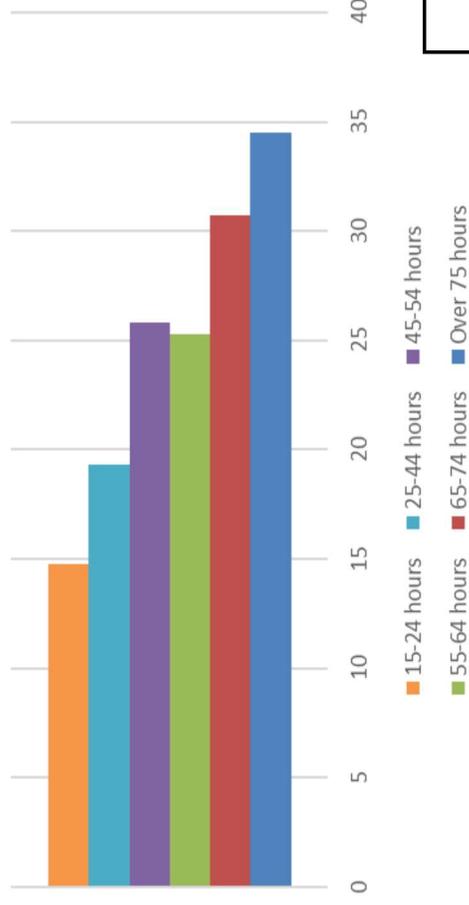
- Military caregivers helping veterans from earlier eras tend to resemble civilian caregivers in many ways.
- Post-9/11 military caregivers differ from pre-9/11 and civilian caregiver groups. They tend to be younger, caring for a younger individual with a mental health or substance use condition, employed, and not connected to a support network. They are more likely to use mental health resources and services, and to use them more often.
- Post-9/11 military caregivers typically help those for whom they are caring cope with stressful situations or other emotional and behavioral challenges.
- Military caregivers consistently experience worse health outcomes, greater strains in family relationships, and more workplace problems than non-caregivers, and post-9/11 military caregivers fare worst in these areas.

**Statistical Sources**

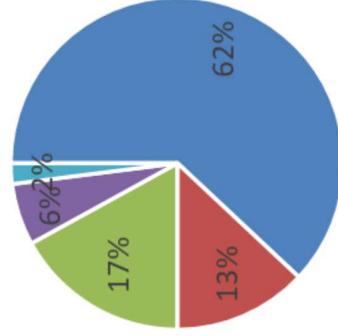
- *Hidden Heroes America's Military Caregivers* — Executive Summary [https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RR499z1.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR499z1.html)
- <https://www.caregiver.org/resource/caregiver-statistics-demographics/>

There are 5.5 million caregivers in our country

Average Hours Per Week Spent Caregiving



Caregivers by Ethnicity



■ White ■ African American ■ Hispanic ■ Asian ■ Other  
Learn more about the American Legion Auxiliary at [www.ALAFforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAFforVeterans.org)

Updated 29OCT21

**What other organizations work with caregivers?**

- Military and Veteran Caregiver Network <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/military-families/services-for-veterans/military-veteran-caregiver-network.html>
- Blue Star Families <https://bluestarfam.org/for-mil-families/wellness/>
- Veteran Caregiver Support [operation-homefront.org/veteran-caregiver-support/](http://operation-homefront.org/veteran-caregiver-support/)
- T.A.P.S. Caregiver to Survivor Program <https://www.taps.org/caregiver#:~:text=Caregiver%20to%20Survivor%3A%20Walking%20with,death%20of%20your%20loved%20one.>

**What you can do to help**

- Familiarize yourself with resources such as American Legion service officers, who are trained to offer resources.
- Sign up as a volunteer with VA's Compasionate Contact Corps or the Volunteer in Home Visitors Program. For more information go to [www.volunteer.va.gov](http://www.volunteer.va.gov).
- Report hours spent as a caregiver to a family member. **Limits do apply.** For more information, contact [VA&R@ALAFforVeterans.org](mailto:VA&R@ALAFforVeterans.org).
- Donate online at [www.ALAFoundation.org/donate](http://www.ALAFoundation.org/donate), or by mailing a check to the ALA Foundation, 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268 and write Mission Endowment Fund in the subject line.



## Red Book Corrections

- Pg. 6 Add Janet Heidtke (Unit 118) to the Bowling Committee
- Pg. 7 Replace Teresa Isensee with Deanna Farley as Dept. Leadership Chairman
- Pg. 7 Add Pat Griswold (Unit 537) as 4<sup>th</sup> District Children & Youth Chairman
- Pg. 10 Update Sheila's Frye to Representative of Madison VA
- Pg. 10 Add Helene Stein as Deputy of Tomah VAMC
- Pg. 10 Remove Lillian Bitters as Deputy of Union Grove WVH
- Pg 11 Add Donna Lewens (Unit 21) as Kenosha County President – Ph: 262-496-1095 / Email: dlebens@outlook.com
- Pg. 11 Update - Delores Bruch Unit # to 317
- Pg. 11 Add Jeanne Flaskrud as Eau Claire County President (Unit 550)
- Pg. 16 Maggie Geiger's email address is maggieg4ala@gmail.com
- \*Pg. 18 Update Dany Thompson's address to 1614 Prairie Place #105, Holmen WI 54636
- Pg. 18 Diana Sirovina's email address is: dsirovina@icloud.com
- Pg. 19 Daralyn Wessels' email address is: daralynwessels5@gmail.com

\*updated 1/25/2022

## DATES & DEADLINES

Last updated 1/27/2022

*(subject to change)*

2022		
DATES	EVENT	LOCATION
February 12, 2022	WI American Legion Oratorical Contest	Ripon College, Ripon, WI
February 12, 2022	6 <sup>th</sup> District Americanism Banquet	LaSure's Hall, Oshkosh, WI
February 21, 2022	George Washington Luncheon	Meyers Restaurant, Greenfield, WI
March 19, 2022	7 <sup>th</sup> District Spring Conference	American Legion Post 201, Tomah WI
April 2-3, 2022	Wisconsin ALA Bowling Tournament	New London Lanes, New London, WI
April 2-3, 2022	10 <sup>th</sup> District Spring Conference	American Legion Post 53, Eau Claire, WI
April 9, 2022	8 <sup>th</sup> District Spring Conference	American Legion Post 239, Tigerton, WI
April 9, 2022	11 <sup>th</sup> District Spring Conference	American Legion Post 89, Minocqua, WI
April 9-10, 2022	Wisconsin ALA Bowling Tournament	New London Lanes, New London, WI
April 23, 2022	6 <sup>th</sup> District Spring Conference	St. Martin Lutheran Church, Chilton, WI
April 30, 2022	2 <sup>nd</sup> District Spring Conference	Laack's Ballroom, Sheboygan Falls, WI
April 30, 2022	3 <sup>rd</sup> District Spring Conference	Century Hall, Wauzeka, WI
May 7, 2022	1 <sup>st</sup> District Spring Conference	American Legion Post 375, Mukwonago, WI
May 7, 2022	9 <sup>th</sup> District Spring Conference	Elcho, WI
May 14, 2022	4 <sup>th</sup> District Spring Conference	American Legion Post 537, Milwaukee
May 14, 2022	12 <sup>th</sup> District Spring Conference	Webster Community Center, Webster, WI
May 14, 2022	Commander Eirich's Testimonial	Sheboygan Yacht Club
May 21, 2022	Sweat-4-Vets Post-to-Post Walk	
May 30, 2022	ALA HQ Closed for Memorial Day Holiday	
June 11, 2022	President Diane Weggen's Testimonial	Stanley, WI
June 19-24, 2022	ALA Badger Girls State	
July 4, 2022	ALA HQ Closed for Independence Day Holiday	
July 14-17, 2022	Legion Family Department Convention	Green Bay, WI
Aug 26-Sep 1, 2022	Legion Family National Convention	Milwaukee, WI