



Department of Wisconsin
American Legion Auxiliary
8th District Newsletter
October 2025

Honor Our Country, Support Our Veterans



If you attended the 8th District Fall Conference, I hope you found it informative. Department Commander Nathan Bond delivered an inspiring welcome. Mary Dulske, volunteer coordinator at King, told us about the many, many ways to volunteer at King; not just in time but with donations. We brainstormed ways to act on President Sue's theme: Honor our Country, Support our veterans. Lots of good ideas. During lunch, several attendees took a tour of the Commandants House which is undergoing major upgrades. After lunch, Kelly Nelson, author of Brownie the War Dog, told us the background for her book. There was truly an all out effort from everyone during WWII to make sure we won that war. Thanks to Lola Post 14 for hosting a great conference.

I'm still looking for District chairpersons for Children & Youth, Education, Junior Activities, Leadership, National Security, Poppy*, Public Relations*, and VA&R. *These are the chairs I really need to fill. These chairs have full support from Department. There are PEPs (program engagement plan) on the Department website that explains the program and duties. Most have a FaceBook page. There may be zoom meetings several times a year. Please consider serving in this capacity.

Changes are coming in reporting! It will be streamlined. There are other changes too. Everything has not been finalized at this time but will be by Mid Winter. Plan on attending Mid Winter January 15-18 at Oneida Casino in Green Bay to learn what's changing. After all, reporting will start several weeks later. Be prepared. Commander Bond will present "How the Legion Family works together. A full agenda for the weekend will be published soon

Department is asking all unit presidents and membership chairs to check their members email address, phone and street address to make sure they are updated and correct. Send any changes to Andrea Stoltz.

Membership: Wisconsin is currently third nationally and first in Central Division. Let's move up nationally. Congratulations to Mosinee on attaining 100% for 2026. Let's get those memberships in! Units have opportunities to win money and members could win lots of goodies for Department Convention, including a free nights stay.

Exec Team profiles: correction from last month Fran Bender, 1st Vice President.

I have been a member of the ALA since 2002. My eligibility is through my husband, Command Sergeant Major Raymond Bender, retired 31 years. In 2013 I became membership chair until this year. I have been historian, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and Sergeant at Arms. I was elected to Unit 10 President for the 2025-2027 term. I also am a representative for Badger Girl State and scholarships since 2013.

Sorry Fran for the mistake.

Exec Team Profiles: Linda Tryczak, Legislative Chair. I am currently the Department and District Chair for Community Service. I am my unit's 1st vice and membership chair. Recently I held the positions of District president, secretary and Legislative chair. At the unit level I held president, 1st vice president, 2nd vice president and Poppy chair. Please read the paragraph below and see the attachments for ideas and inspiration about community Service.

Community Service News from Linda. When doing community Service, please take lots of pictures and submit with a description of the event and send to tryczak.l@gmail.com All pictures must be in digital format.

Community Service Ideas: Members, volunteer at libraries, food pantries, domestic violence shelters. Senior citizen centers and nursing homes (King is a great place to start). Represent the ALA on local boards and committees. Units, purchase Auxiliary apparel for members to wear when volunteering, Attend and represent the American Legion Family at community events like parades.

Don't forget to record your hours and report your activities.

What's Up?

This is where you can list upcoming events for your unit, post, squadron or Riders. Send your upcoming events to ALALWIDist8@gmail.com by the third week of the month and it will be in the monthly newsletter.

November 1: Fremont Unit 391 Chili Supper, Pie Social and Raffle at the AL Hall, 322 Waupaca St. Fremont. Serving 3:00 – 6:00 or gone.

November 8: Veterans Day Dinner at the Riverdeck in Fremont. Social hour, Dinner and music after with prizes. Fun starts at 5:00.

Dec 13: Wreaths across America at King Veterans Home. Service begins at 10:00 with wreath laying to following

April 11-12: Wausau unit 10 is hosting the ALA State Bowling Tournament at Weston Lanes. Get your teams together!

Dates to Remember

October – Breast Cancer Awareness month
October – Domestic Violence Awareness month
October – National Bullying Prevention Month
October 13, 2025 – Navy's Birthday (1775)
October 26, Day of the Deployed
October 27, 2025 – Navy Day
October 29, 2025 – Public Relations Zoom Chat

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The purpose of the Community Service program is to mobilize the American Legion Family, the veteran and military community, and the general population of the community to provide services directed to veterans, active-duty service members, and their families.

This program includes development, implementation and monitoring of community service activities that promote economic security and offer assistance for veterans, active-duty service members and their families, and the homeless veteran while positioning the American Legion Auxiliary as a one stop shop organization to assist them in meeting their needs. Auxiliary units should encourage the public to assist in this endeavor.

Resources:

How to Mobilize Community Support for Those Who Serve

How to Partner with Organizations for Community Outreach

How to Participate in the 9/11 National Day of Service

How to Participate in a Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service

2025-2026 National Community Service Program Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements

Thank you for taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission! Your story may inspire another member into service. It also helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

Here are the national awards for this committee:

Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Community Service Program in Central Division

All unit entries must be submitted to the department chairman by April 1st using the entry form in the Community Service Program Engagement Plan.

Authorization to Release Personal Information:

Award submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary. Through submission of reports and award entries, the submitter grants non-exclusive reproduction and publication rights to the materials submitted and agrees to have their names and submission published for ALA use or commercial use without additional compensation or permission.

Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible. Award certificates will be completed using the information provided on the entry form, so please be sure to complete it in its entirety. Please refer to the webpage for specific criteria such as photographs, narrative length, submission deadline, and point of contact. All awards will be mailed to the department office after ALA National Convention.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

October 2025

Issue #1

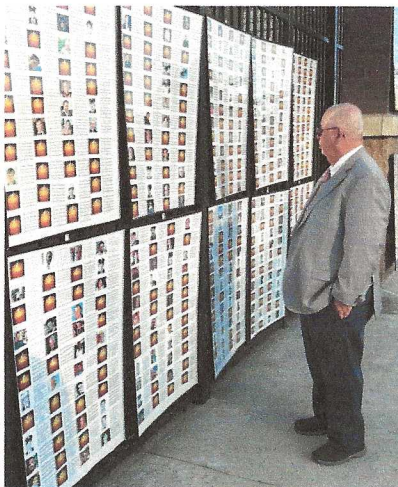
NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

***Community Service
Quarter 1 Meeting
Zoom Call
Wednesday
October 15
7:30pm EST***

***Martin Luther King Jr.
Day of Service
January 19, 2026***

National Chair John Tester taking in the "Wall of Hero's". Pictures and info on all 2,977 victims of 9/11. The wall was produced and displayed by Walmart in Bennington, Vermont.



Community Service National Chair John R. Tester

Greetings ALA Community Service,

First, let me say how honored I am to be your National Chairman for Community Service. Of the many important programs that are part of the American Legion Auxiliary, Community Service is one where our members have the opportunity to engage with the general public and show them what we do, how we do it, and why we do it. When we interact with our community, we raise awareness for our Veterans and our military, which can come back to us ten-fold when holding fundraisers and events honoring our Veterans.

Most of this first edition of the National Community Service Newsletter will be devoted to introducing our Division Chairs, and remembering the 9/11 Memorial Day of Service. I was honored to be a guest speaker at a 9/11 Memorial event in Bennington, Vermont, where I had the pleasure of hearing other speakers talk about their experiences of that fateful day. But in addition to honoring and remembering those who perished, and the thousands who stepped forward in the hours, days and months afterward, I spoke about the brave men and women of our military who volunteered to help defend our country and bring those responsible for the terrorist attack to justice.

As we begin our Community Service journey for the upcoming year, I would encourage all Department Chairs for Community Service to check out the American Legion Auxiliary website at www.legion-aux.org. After you log in, go to the Community Service page and check out the tremendous amount of information about our committee, and all the ways we can engage in our communities.

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans, our military and their families, and especially our communities.

John R. Tester
National Chair



NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Community Outreach

- Plan a stand down.
- Hold 5K Freedom Walk with proceeds going to Auxiliary programs.
- Hold a Community Covenant event, 9/11 Remembrance event (see our guide: How to Invite Community Support for those Serving).
- Hold other mission-focused events that are open to the community.
- Hold a clothing drive for a community homeless shelter.
- Plan community events on Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service such as:
 - ◊ Yard work for a community member.
 - ◊ Help serve a meal at a homeless shelter

Canyon City Auxiliary Deliver Donuts and Gratitude on 9/11



ALA Canyon City Unit 180 (California) with Squadron 180 Commander honor Irwindale first responders with donuts and heartfelt appreciation on 9/11.



First responders honored with a free meal on 9/11 at a Unit in Florida.



Community Service National Vice-Chair Amy Luft

Amy's Angle....

Community Service is at the very heart of the American Legion Auxiliary's core beliefs and an integral part of our Preamble "...to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation...". In addition to being one of our major outreach programs, community service touches almost every program of the American Legion Auxiliary. The 2024-2025 Impact Report distributed at the National Convention reflects some significant achievements:

- \$52 million - raised through Community Service outreach
- 2 million - volunteer hours for Community Service

Just think, not every unit reported. Imagine what those numbers would look like if every member and unit provided a year-end report. There are many things that we do on a regular basis that we may not be reporting on. Do you do any of the following?

- Volunteer at church or school
- Sew or knit for a nursing home
- Donate food for a food drive
- Provide a ride to a neighbor

All of these are reportable under Community Service. Units are encouraged to be involved in other activities as well. There is no greater way for any unit to ensure its success and sustain its longevity than being in service to the community. If your unit or post is not an active force in your community, it only takes one person to spark the movement.

Think about what our vision statement says "to become the premier service organization in every community." The only way we will be successful for our future is to be active in our communities today. Make it a goal to be in the public eye – even the smallest tasks can make a real difference. Whatever the event or project, make sure to report on it. Our veterans, military and their families will thank you.

Amy Luft
National Vice-Chair



NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Community Service Central Division Chair Cindy Masowick

Logging in to the ALA National Community Service page will provide you with the engagement plans, as well as helpful tips on organizing events in your community.



American Legion Family Days does seem far off. Why not start planning now! This website has suggested steps on how to

plan this event.

And don't forget to post those pictures on the ALA Community Service Facebook page. Everyone wants to see what your unit, district and department is doing. Everyone can get great ideas from just scrolling. You never know if you will see that picture on the big screen at National Convention next August.

Janice Mort, Department of Indiana reported that the Wawasee American Legion Post 223 Family and Honor Guard held 9/11 and POW/MIA Ceremony on September 11, 2025.

Cindy Masowick
Central Division



Community Service Western Division Chair Teresa Lugo-Nunez

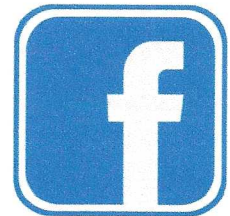
In the days preceding 9/11, recognized as a Day of Remembrance and Service, the Western Division was highly active. Numerous departments collaborated closely with local first responders, providing meals, homemade treats, and small tokens of appreciation. Many departments also engaged in formal remembrance ceremonies, including flag-raising and lowering events, musical tributes featuring bugles, bagpipes, and vocal performances.

Chaplains were present throughout these activities, offering prayers and support to attendees.

Junior members represented their departments by distributing programs and assisting with serving and cleanup efforts. Both the Arizona and California Departments contributed photographs documenting these events, for which I am sincerely grateful.

The spirit of community and solidarity was palpable, as volunteers of all ages worked side by side to honor those who serve and protect. Through thoughtful gestures and moments of reflection, the Western Division fostered connections that extended beyond organizational boundaries, embracing families, neighbors, and newcomers alike. This dedication to meaningful outreach not only strengthened partnerships with public safety teams but also reaffirmed the commitment to unity and resilience in times of collective remembrance.

Teresa Lugo-Nunez
Western Division



Find us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/
groups/ALACommunityService](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALACommunityService)



NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Community Service Southern Division Chair Pamela Elam Lipscomb

Departments across the Southern Division of the American Legion Auxiliary are geared up and ready for a successful year of Community Service. Plans are underway to promote and partner with community service organizations, amplifying impact and deepening connections.

As we paused to remember those we lost on September 11, 2001, Departments joined with the American Legion in remembrance ceremonies to pay tribute to our fallen heroes.

Here are a few of our Department Highlights:

Department of Florida

The Department of Florida has been promoting community service through educating members on various aspects of the program.

Recent emphasis was placed on the 9-11 day of service in which many units provided meals, snacks, and other goodies to first responders, fire departments, police units and more within their own communities. The Department of Florida's goal is to provide Compassionate Community Service by making our communities better for everybody.

Department of North Carolina

North Carolina is lacing up their tennis shoes and running into Community Service. Team "NC Quackers" (Department of North Carolina) is participating in Challenge 250 alongside the Legion Family. Members rolled up their sleeves and committed to the 9/11 Day of Service. North Carolina continues to serve and be involved in the community.

**Community Service Quarter 1
Meeting
Zoom Call
Wednesday, October 15th
7:30pm**



Department of South Carolina

South Carolina recognized Patriots Day with several activities. This included acknowledging first responders, providing fresh picked blueberries to a food relief center, reaching out and helping families go to medical appointments and providing financial assistance. South Carolina is proud to continue the efforts of recognizing our veterans, their families, and the community.



**American
Legion Auxiliary
Unit #43
Fort Mill SC
Patriot Day**

Department of Virginia

Virginia vows to never forget. Members attended remembrance ceremonies honoring the 2,973 lives lost on 9/11, delivered snack bags to School Resource Officers, and participated in 9/11 Heroes Runs across the state.

9/11 Patriot Day- Unit President, Rita Coffrey Feasenmyer, started out early delivering snacks & drinks to... See more



Pamela Elam Lipscomb
Southern Division



NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Community Service Northwestern Division Chair Ann Ritacco

Community Service in our states is finding ways to help our neighbors around us. We need to not only support our communities with money but with actions. Have you thought about participating in a walk for Alzheimer's, Make-a-Wish, or Suicide Awareness. You could also help at a food bank, help someone plant their garden, help clean up a park, or a ditch on a road or some other way you see to help your community.

How does your Department help your community? This year let us see how many ways we can be there for our communities. Show them that the American Legion Auxiliary and Family are there for them when they need it. Wear your branding and let people know who we are.

The first department to share an event with me is the Department of South Dakota. They participated in the 125th Labor Day celebration in Wagner. The theme of the parade was Red, White, and Retro. They changed it just a bit to Red, White & Remember in honor of those members and Veterans we have lost. Wagner American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary float proudly had State Legion Commander Kevin Hemple and State Auxiliary President Susie Learing join them on their float. We threw out candy; red, white, and blue I love USA duckies, red, white, and blue gnomes, and bracelets to the crowds. It was a fun time.



I look forward to working with the Northwestern Division Department Chairman: Tamara- MN, Tricia

- MT, Jodi- CO, Nancy- NE, Shelley- ND, Alyssa- SD, and Jessica- WY. Let us make this a successful year for Community Service.

Ann Ritacco
Northwestern Division

Community Service Eastern Division Chair Paulette Caron

The ALA Eastern Division has hit the ground running this administrative year ensuring their communities are supported! In the spirit of being Mission Driven, Family Focused, the Eastern Division is committed to providing a wide variety of community service projects this year.

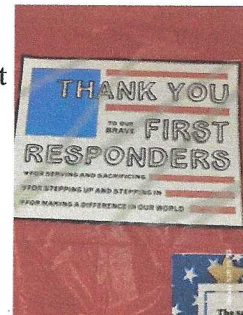
Several Units provided school supplies to local schools throughout their communities to ensure the children in their local areas are well-prepared for the new school year.

Patriots' Day 2025/National Day of Service was acknowledged by several Departments in the Eastern Division.

American Legion Family Post 360 of Weatherly, Pennsylvania held a somber Patriots' Day Remembrance along with the Weatherly Middle School and local first responders.



ALA Federal Unit 19 members from Baltimore, Maryland participated with their community leaders in showing honor and thanks to First Responders on Patriots' Day 2025/ National Day of Service.



NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

ALA Steadman-Keenan Unit 96 of Brunswick, Maryland presented gift cards to their local fire department, ambulance company, and police department in honor of Patriots' Day 2025/National Day of Service.



ALA Gold Star Unit 191 of Mount Airy, Maryland presented a generous check to their local fire department on 9/09/2025 in honor of their dedicated service to the community. This check was presented during a 9/11 Remembrance fundraiser.



ALA Unit 28 of Millsboro, Delaware held their Annual Candlelight Ceremony in Post 28's Pavilion. The Unit held a special ceremony on September 11, honoring the victims of the attacks on that day in 2001.



The event featured a motorcade by The American Legion Riders, patriotic music, and a lighting of candles followed by the singing of "God Bless America" by Judy Mangini.

The Departments within the Eastern Division are excited to promote the Community Service Program this year and we look forward to sharing more with you in the future.

Paulette Caron
Eastern Division

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American Legion Family Day

Saturday, April 25, 2026

Start planning your
American Legion Family
Day now!

For more information on
how to plan a successful
event, consult the ALA
Community Service
Program Engagement
Plan at

www.legion-aux.org

