



10TH DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025



DISTRICT 10 COMMANDERS MESSAGE

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I hope all of you had a great Thanksgiving be it with many or few and that your hearts were filled with gratitude. This time of year can affect many people and as the cold comes and the world is resting in winter slumber now more than ever hearts are in need of good cheer, compassion and kindness.

We are approaching the end of 2025 and looking back at how quickly it has passed. As we approach this upcoming holiday season, I consider the needs of the many and know that each post is doing remarkable things in simple and glorious ways. I would ask always that we put aside our differences and come together. That our hearts soften to the human condition that life does not always find us at our best, and each persons heart carries things we do not have words for. Remember who you are and that you matter. I feel strongly how important it is to keep names safe upon your lips that we may honor the things we stand for As the American legion families not only through their words, but their dedicated actions to serving the principles and people we were founded on.

I have been able to Meet and greet many people in the county meetings and still have more to go as I want sincerely to hear the needs of the Counties we have stewardship over in the 10th district. I am humbled and awed at the passion and dedication I see manifested on a much larger scale as I travel throughout the Counties.

As we approach this season and many times this is the time of great struggle for Veterans, Widows and their families. I continue to push operation fill the food banks of your local communities and endeavor the errand of angels to be present in your mind as you wake up daily follow the promptings in your heart about your fellow members, check on them, help them feel that they are not forgotten or left behind. I share these sincere words as I have seen first-hand how you have wrapped your arms around Veterans even ones that are sometimes rough around the edges and welcomed them home made a place for them, Made auxiliary members feel appreciated supported and heard, Legion riders that have profound impact and the added dedication of our sons of the American Legion with the support they have in each post.

My heart has swelled with pride as I see and hear how the youth programs as well as the hearts open and flow with generosity of time. That is one of the most important things we possess is time that we give. I know there is only so much time in a day, and we all have busy schedules and much going on in our day-to-day lives. United we are unstoppable and divided we fall. No matter our differences or our beliefs, this District has embraced differences, putting aside egos and gotten so much accomplished in the face of many obstacles.

I am so proud of each and every one of you. I take a word with my maker daily that I may serve to my fullest capacity both in my profession and my calling as the 10th district commander, and I am so thankful for the leadership and team that I work with to make this possible. How much their wisdom and dedication to this district and people warm me up. Our executive committee gets things done even through health issues, even though there is heartache, even though already having their plate full I am thankful for each and every one that has supported and encouraged not only me but those that are struggling with things that there are no words for. We are not people that will be divided. I strongly encourage unity. To always have a kind word and patience with one another. Continue forward and be the one, continue to check on your members and their families that you may know them. Sometimes we have to step into roles of leadership we often do not know if we have the ability, capacity or time to do, now more than ever we have changing and shifting of the torch to the next generations that will see this organization stay alive and a breathing force. I would ask those that have a willing heart to reach out to your post leadership and ask for a role to help your local posts stay alive and thrive. Many of you have hidden talents that would come forward in this time of need for the coming changes of the times and are greatly needed.

God Bless and keep you my 10th District Warriors, Angels, and fellow patriots through this season and may the New Year bring you renewal and comfort as you stand in need of it.

Much Respect and Affection,
Felicia M Decker 10th District Commander



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DISTRICT 10 AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello American Legion Family members!

It's beginning to look a lot like.....winter! I am certain that snowfall amounts throughout the Tenth District are as varied as our opinions of the white stuff! Here in Augusta, I decided that I wanted to shovel a little at a time, so it would not be as difficult to keep the sidewalk at the new house as clear as possible. Therefore, I shoveled each time I took the pups out to play in the snow—and go potty out there. I estimate that we got about 6 inches of snow yesterday and early today (Nov 29-30). I hope you all had a safe and successful deer hunting season, a wonderful Thanksgiving Day and safety on the roads for all who have traveled for family gatherings, for hunting, and for Thanksgiving.

Christmas is coming soon, and while Christmas to many of us is a magical time of the year—thinking of the religious meaning of celebrating the birth of a Savior, or looking at this season through the eyes of a child who is waiting for Santa and his reindeer to bring them at least some of the goodies on their wish list, many of us look forward, with anticipation, to this wondrous time of the year. However, my friends, let us all keep in mind that the Christmas season is not always the easiest time of the year for everyone. We all have friends who have suffered some sort of loss, whether it be a death in the family, an estrangement in the family, a health crisis, the loss of a job, a move across the country into unfamiliar territory, or perhaps a move into a nursing facility or assisted living facility for some of our frail or elderly family and friends. Christmas is actually one of the times of the year when suicide is at an extremely high rate! Please check on your people—on OUR people! Buddy checks/Poppy calls—whatever you want to call them—are so important, especially at this time of year. Calls are great, but in person visits, if at all possible, are even better! Don't forget our veterans who are housebound or in nursing homes or assisted living facilities, many of them are also lonesome and would love a visit from YOU! Those visits are cherished by these veterans every day of the year, but the visits are especially coveted during this time of the year. Also, remember our active-duty service members and their families, who may be separated from each other because of a deployment. I would encourage you to especially remember the family and friends of National Guard members Sarah Beckstrom, who was killed, as well as Andrew Wolfe, who was also shot in an ambush attack in Washington DC just before Thanksgiving. If you are a prayer warrior, please keep all of these families in your hearts and prayers.

I hope that some of you are making plans to attend our Mid-Winter Conference in January. It should be a time of connecting with other members of our great organization as well as a time of training and learning. It will be held at the Oneida Casino Hotel in Green Bay from January 15-18, 2026—with the Auxiliary session being held on Saturday, January 17th. Registration for the conference is \$30, if you register by January 1st. The luncheon on Saturday can be added for only \$20, with 3 choices listed on the registration form for your meal. If you wish to attend the Banquet on Saturday night, you must register by December 27th. The Cost is \$50 for a buffet that sounds fabulous, with baby back ribs and broasted chicken, in addition to the sides to go with those meat choices! Look for the Registration form included in this newsletter.

If you have not yet paid your 2026 dues, please do so today! We need you—and we want all of our members to be part of the ALA! Contact your membership chair to pay locally or you can call national to pay by phone, with your credit card. The number to call is 317-569-4570 Monday-Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm Eastern time.

If you would like me to visit your unit for an upcoming function or a unit meeting, please let me know in advance, so I can put it on my schedule. I look forward to the opportunity to meet with as many of our units as possible and participate in activities that you may wish for me to do.

Finally, remember the deadline for ordering your poppies for this coming year is fast approaching. Please order your poppies by December 13th, or you may not receive them in time for your poppy distribution in May!

I wish you all a Christmas and New Year filled with joy and blessings—and I hope to see you all soon!

For God and Country,
Teresa Steinke, President
Tenth District, Department of Wisconsin
American Legion Auxiliary



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THANK YOU FROM THE TOWNSEND AND CALLOW FAMILY

Thank You Legion Family!

We would like to thank the Legion family members who reached out to us with condolences for the passing of our grandson Carter. We appreciated the calls, text messages, cards etc. Special thanks to Post & Unit 121 of River Falls for providing food and serving at the celebration of life.

God bless you all, we feel loved! Mary & Jerry Townsend

FALL CONFERENCE “GIVE 10 TO EDUCATION”

The 10th District Fall Conference was held in Alma on September 27th. The units that attended participated in the “Give 10 to Education” project, donating items for the Alma school district. The following is a list of donations:

- 8 – flash drives
- 40 - notebooks
- 25 – 8 pack glue sticks
- 25 - boxes of crayons
- 40 – white 3ring binders
- 25 – packs of colored pencils
- 2 – pencil cases
- 2 – 500 count reams of copy paper
- 40 – folders
- 29 – packages of 12 count pencils
- 10 – black pens 10 – ed pens
- 30 – large and 2 small boxes of Kleenex
- 10 – packages of colored markers
- 10 – rulers
- 8 – packages of scissors
- 25- packages of markers for white board
- 32- headphones

Thank you, units, for your donations!!

In the photo on the right:
Alma Auxiliary members Joan Lanhorst and Diane Schultz.
Left is Principal Mrs. Brevick





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HIGHLIGHT OUR HERO'S

Jim Greger from Legion Post 87 in Rice Lake to be highlighted.

Jim served in the U.S. Air Force for 4 years. He was a weapons mechanic. He trained in Denver and was stationed in Nellis Air Force base in Nevada. He was the rank of Sergeant when leaving the military. He served as the American Legion Commander for Rice Lake Post 87 from 2016-2025. He served the Post at Burger Nights and Sunday Breakfast once a month. He wore many hats at the Legion Post! He also served as a member of the Rice Lake Veteran Center Honor Guard.

We salute Jim, rest in peace!

ALA – WISCONSIN JUNIORS FUNDRAISER FOR CAMP AMERICAN LEGION

They are selling Kwik Trip gift cards and personalized Honor Buttons. Kwik Trip gift cards are available in \$25, \$50, and \$100 denominations. They earn 5% profit on regular gift cards and 15% profit on grocery-only gift cards. Grocery-only gift cards cannot be used to purchase fuel, tobacco, alcohol, gift cards, lottery/lotto, or stamps. Pre-orders can be placed with credit card payment by going to [Juniors Fundraiser](#) or scanning the QR code (see attached form)

For those who prefer to purchase the KwikTrip gift cards or personalized Honor Buttons with a check, an order form is attached for your convenience.

Orders received by December 21st will be distributed at Midwinter Conference in Green Bay or hand-delivered by January 31st. Gift cards will also be available for purchase at Midwinter. Gift card orders can be placed until June 15, 2026.

Additionally, the Juniors are selling personalized Honor Buttons for \$10. The button can include a picture of your veteran, name, dates of service, and a personal message. You can order personalized Honor Buttons on the same order form as the Kwik Trip cards. Email Junior Activities Chairman Christine Johnsen at cmj102@aol.com to begin personalizing your button. Orders received by January 10th will be available for pickup at the Midwinter Conference. (form attached)

Generic Honor Buttons with patriotic slogans will also be available for purchase at Midwinter for \$5.



HAUGEN UNIT 540 – NOVEMBER WINDOWN DISPLAY

The Haugen Auxiliary Unit 540 created “The Military Child Table” display in the Haugen Elementary School for the month of November. Thank you, Haugen Unit members, for showing our support for our Military children.



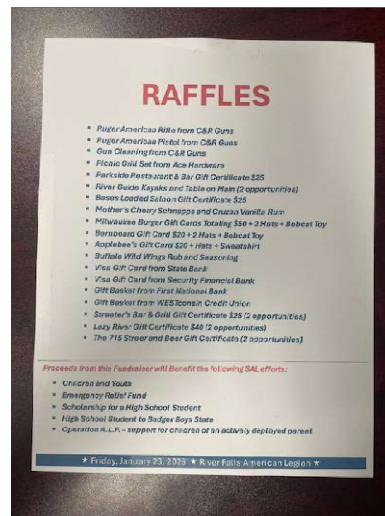
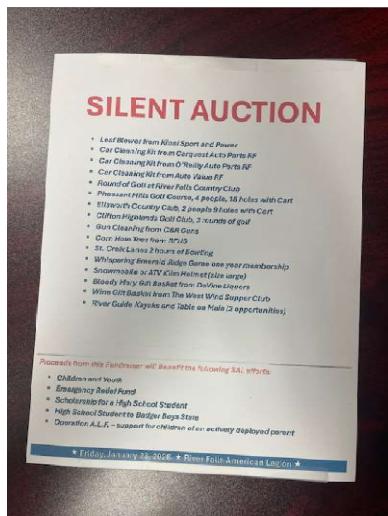
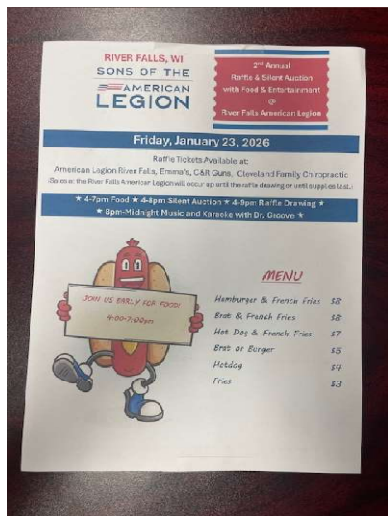


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RIVER FALLS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The 2nd Annual Raffle & Silent Auction with Food and Entertainment at the River Falls American Legion Post on Friday January 23, 2026.



10TH DISTRICT LEGION “HELPING HANDS” FUNDS DONATED

Picture District 10 President Teresa Steinke presenting a check to Harry Bauer, chairman of the Chippewa Falls Veterans Home Rec Committee, the balance of the Tenth District Helping Hands for Veterans fund, which Ken Piel founded when he was 3rd Vice Commander of the Tenth District. This money will stay within the Tenth District, now to be used to help make the lives of the members of Chippewa Falls Veterans Home a little brighter.



10TH DISTRICT ORATORICAL CONTEST

The 10th District Oratorical Contest will be held on Saturday February 7, 2026 at the Cumberland Legion Post at 1:00pm.

Post Commanders - Please let your County Command know if you have a Contestant for your respective County Oratorical Contest – Reminder only one Contestant per Post to the County.

County Commanders – Let District Oratorical Chairman know when your County Oratorical Contest is and send the winner as soon as possible for the contest on February 7th. Please have your contestant arrive by 12:30pm.

Steve Isensee

District Oratorical Chairman –

715-563-3179 email: sisensee1954@gmail.com



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THE AMERICAN LEGION'S MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

ALA members are encouraged to attend The American Legion's Midwinter Conference on Saturday, January 17, 2026 in Green Bay. Midwinter registration is \$30 prior to January 2, 2026 and \$35 after that. A registration form is included with this newsletter.

AUXILIARY MISSION STATEMENT

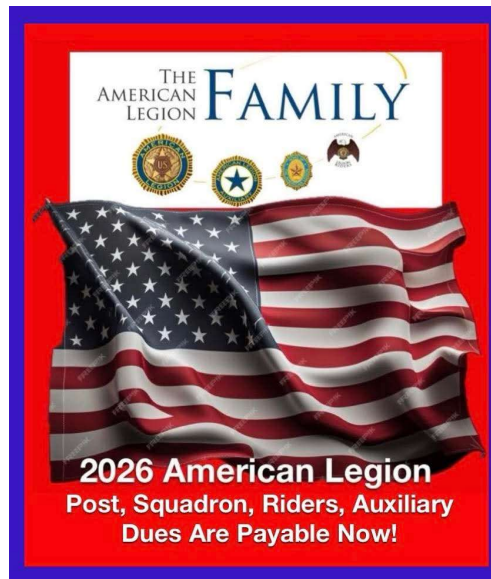
In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans,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

AUXILIARY VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2026 MEMBERSHIP DUES?

Don't wait renew today – your Legion Family Membership expires on December 31, 2025 unless 2026 has been paid.



UP COMING EVENTS

December 25, 2025	Chistmas Day!
January 1, 2026	New Years Day – Welcome to 2026 – Are your 2026 dues paid?
January 9, 2026	Fish Fry – Boyd American Legion 135 Clark Street in Boyd WI
January 16-18, 2026	Midwinter Conference – Oneida Casino Hotel Green Bay
January 23, 2026	River Falls SAL 2 nd Annual Raffle & Silent Auction with Food and Entertainment
February 7, 2026	10 th District Oratorical Contest at the Cumberland Legion Post.

Next Newsletter will be February 2026 – Deadline for articles and pictures will be January 30, 2026

To submit articles and events for the 10th District Family Newsletter send to: Teresa Isensee tisensee2173@gmail.com



2026 Midwinter Conference

January 15-18, 2026

Oneida Casino Hotel ~ 2020 Airport Drive, Green Bay, WI 54313

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY REGISTRATION FORM

Any ALA members attending any session of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin 2026 Midwinter Conference must register using this form (**1 person per registration form**). Pay \$30.00 by January 1, 2026 to **save \$5.00!** Registrations received after January 1, 2026, are \$35.00 per person.

Housing reservations at a discounted rate of \$119 + 15.5% tax per night with a 2-night minimum stay must be made online through The American Legion's website (wilegion.org/midwinter). The reservation link will be available after 11/1/2025.

Next year, 2026, is our country's semi-sesquicentennial. The Midwinter Banquet will start the celebration with Honor Your Service *. Legion attendees should wear something related to their service – uniforms, shirts, pictures, etc. and SAL and ALA attendees should wear or bring something from the service of the person they are honoring. The banquet buffet will consist of salad, coleslaw, baked beans, buttered cut corn with roasted red peppers, au gratin potatoes, BBQ braised baby back ribs, broasted chicken, cornbread, and a dessert. The extraordinary Boogie Time DJ will join us again to get everyone up and moving. Banquet tickets must be purchased by December 27, 2025!!!

(Please type or print clearly for your badge to be printed correctly as you wish)

NAME _____ MEMBER ID # _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE () _____

DISTRICT: _____ POST #: _____ UNIT #: _____ SQUADRON #: _____

ITEM	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
Registration Fee (only one per form)		\$30.00	
Registration Fee After 1/1/26 (only one per form)		\$35.00	
Honor Your Service Banquet *		\$50.00 (RSVP by December 27, 2025)	

American Legion Auxiliary ONLY!!!

Are you attending the Auxiliary Session on Saturday, January 17, 2026? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If you are attending the ALA Session on Saturday, 1/17/2026, and would like a boxed lunch, please order your preference by 12/27/2025. Lunches are \$21 each and come with chips, fresh fruit and a pickle spear. No refunds will be issued.

Smoked Turkey & Bacon Wrap (\$21)	
Roast Beef & Cheddar Sandwich (\$21)	
Ham & Cheese Sandwich (\$21)	

*No Refunds will be issued

Total Enclosed

Make check payable to WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION or enter Credit Card Information Below

Name on Card _____ Card Type _____

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ Sec. Code _____

Mail check payable to Wisconsin American Legion to: ALA-Wisconsin, P.O. Box 140, Portage, WI 53901-0140.

Registration forms with credit card information may be emailed to deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org.



2025-2026 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES FUNDRAISER

Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary Junior members are raising money to support Camp American Legion – specifically, to purchase kayaks for the veterans. They are selling Kwik Trip gift cards and personalized Honor Buttons. Orders may be placed online with a credit card using the QR code or mailed to Department Headquarters with a check.

TO ORDER ONLINE WITH CREDIT CARD:



Kwik Trip gift cards are available in \$25, \$50, and \$100 denominations. They earn 5% profit on regular gift cards and 15% profit on grocery-only gift cards. Grocery-only gift cards cannot be used to purchase fuel, tobacco, alcohol, gift cards, lottery/lotto, or stamps. Pre-orders may be placed with credit card payment by scanning the QR code:



IMPORTANT NOTE: ON THE PURCHASE PAGE (AT CHECK OUT), SELECT "OTHER" AND \$0 TO AVOID THE ZEFFY FUNDRAISING FEE.

Orders received by December 21st will be distributed at Midwinter Conference in Green Bay or hand-delivered by January 31st. Gift cards will also be available for purchase at Midwinter. Gift card orders can be placed until June 15th.



Additionally, the Juniors are selling personalized Honor Buttons for \$10. The button can include a picture of your veteran, name, dates of service, and a personal message. You can order personalized Honor Buttons on the same order form as the Kwik Trip cards (use QR Code). Email Junior Activities Chairman Christine Johnsen at cmj102@aol.com to begin personalizing your button. Orders received by January 10th will be available for pickup at the Midwinter Conference.

Generic Honor Buttons with patriotic slogans will also be available for purchase at Midwinter for \$5.

TO ORDER WITH A CHECK:

DESCRIPTION:	QUANTITY	TOTAL COST
\$25 Kwik Trip Food & Fuel (5% Profit)		\$
\$50 Kwik Trip Food & Fuel (5% Profit)		\$
\$100 Kwik Trip Food & Fuel (5% Profit)		\$
\$25 Kwik Trip GROCERY ONLY (15% Profit)		\$
\$50 Kwik Trip GROCERY ONLY (15% Profit)		\$
\$100 Kwik Trip GROCERY ONLY (15% Profit)		\$
Personalized Honor Button (\$10 each) Email cmj102@aol.com w/details		\$
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:		\$

Mail completed order form with check payable to "ALA-Wisconsin" to:

**ALA-WISCONSIN
PO BOX 140
PORTAGE, WI 53901-0140**

A \$25 fee will be charged for any check returned by the bank.

(Please print legibly)

Name: _____ District: _____ Unit #: _____

Address: _____

City St Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ Email: _____