



WISCONSIN



American Legion Auxiliary
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The official publication of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

www.amlegionauxwi.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



TERESA ISENSEE
Department President

"We are family – I got all my sisters with me – We are family – Get up everybody and sing" (from the song "We Are Family" by Sister Sledge).

We are half way through the 2014-2015 Auxiliary Year and our sisters have done some amazing things – reading "America's White Table" during Veterans Day Programs, supporting the Oratorical Contest, holding Stand Downs, volunteering at Veterans facilities, and donating to the Homeless Women's Grant Fund, just to name a few. The donations and the volunteer hours are greatly appreciated by our VA facilities.

Thank you to the units that sent in mid-year reports to the program chairmen. This helped them in writing their reports to Central Division. It is important that each member report to their unit president or secretary all their donations and volunteer hours. If you aren't familiar with the Annual Reports you can find them on the department website (www.amlegionauxwi.org). We are hoping for 100% reporting from every unit in Wisconsin – let's show Congress how

much we care about our Veterans! At the Legion's Midwinter Conference, I attended the ALEI (American Legion Extension Institute) and passed the course; I gained knowledge about the nation's largest veterans service organization, historical timeline, and information on the four pillars of service. I also went to the shooting range and didn't embarrass myself. I actually shot twice and hit the black both times! The dinner on Saturday evening was fantastic. Thank you, Commander Shappell, for a great Midwinter Conference.

During our official visit to the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls, Commander Shappell and I, along with members of the Legion and Auxiliary VA&R committees, played the chimes to the song "You are my Sunshine." These chimes were recently purchased by the Auxiliary for the Music Therapy program. We also watched a friendly game of chair basketball by our Veterans – the staff really gets their exercise every Friday at 10:30 am chasing the basketballs around the room. It was wonderful to watch our Veterans getting exercise and having a little fun.

Oconto Falls was the place to be on Saturday, January 10th. There were approximately 50 people in attendance including Commander

Shappell at our fifth Concert Tour/Information Workshop. This is a great way to recruit new members, encourage and involve current members, and renew friendships with all members.

There is still time to hold a Concert Tour/Information Workshop! If your unit, county, or district is interested, please give me a call. The Team is ready to pass on our knowledge about the American Legion Auxiliary, leadership, ALA programs, membership, and creating a culture of goodwill.

And lastly: If you have not paid your 2015 membership dues, you are now delinquent and suspended from all membership privileges which include voting on Unit business, holding office, attending conference and conventions, and receipt of member benefits. We need you as a valuable member of this organization; your membership shows that you care about our veterans, our military, their families and your community. Please send your membership dues as soon as possible to Department Headquarters or to your Unit Secretary.

"Here's what we call our golden rule – Have faith in you and the things you do – You won't go wrong – This is our family Jewel – *Get up everybody and sing*" (from "We Are Family" by Sister Sledge).

LINCOLN PILGRIMAGE



Department Auxiliary President Teresa Isensee and Commander Bob Shappell led the Wisconsin delegation to Springfield, Illinois on February 12th for the 81st annual pilgrimage to the tomb of President Abraham Lincoln. According to legend, rubbing the nose of Abraham Lincoln conveys good luck!

Raise your Voice in Song for Our Veterans



81.27% • FEBRUARY 2014

MEMBERSHIP

Joan Chwala, Dept. Chairman
Email: Ctr68552@centurytel.net
H: 715-668-5661

A positive attitude with "high hopes."

February brings thoughts of romance and patriotism. Hopefully the American Legion Family in your town or city hosted something special for Valentine's Day, George Washington's birthday or for President's Day. These are all good reasons to sport the statistics of our Legion Family accomplishments to honor our veterans and military and to offer fun within our communities. With these events, we can use our mission program successes to entice eligible ladies to join the American Legion Auxiliary.

What songs will you use to promote President Teresa's theme at your celebrations? I suggest that you use some traditional love songs, military songs, and patriotic songs. You may want to serve a musically decorated cake and give

out appreciation gifts related to the "Raise Your Voice in Song" theme.

With this article I am featuring a song that was written by Jimmy Van Heusen and Sammy Cahn and is originally from the film: A Hole in the Head, 1959. Frank Sinatra made it famous and you can Google it on the internet to hear it or to learn the lyrics. It is called "High Hopes" and tells the story of an ant who wants to move a rubber tree plant and a ram who wants to destroy a billion kilowatt dam. Miraculously, because of their beliefs that they CAN achieve their goals, they were accomplished.

Why do we sometimes feel negative about asking others to join our wonderful organization? We start out with such "High Hopes" and then we fail to follow through. We are denying those eligible members a fabulous opportunity to support the veterans in their families. Our District 10 "Ant" moved that rubber tree plant in Elmwood. Sandy Werner is well on her way to

recruiting 25 new senior members that will earn her a special gift from National President Janet Jefford and a \$25 gift card from me. (This does not include the many juniors she has recruited or the members she inspired others to recruit!) Our own "ram who busted that dam" is Donna Wilhelms of District 6. She turned in her documentation for her "One in a Million" recruiter awards. With "High Hopes," these ladies are making a difference by helping us in our march to one million members by the Auxiliary's Centennial year. Won't you don your spirit of "High Hopes" and help us to accomplish this task?

Please mail narrative program reports and photos of Membership activities to department headquarters by April 15, 2015. Department will forward the information to me.

Joan Chwala, Chairman
Bonnie Jakubczyk, UD&R
Mary Petrie, UD&R
Morgan Johnsen, Junior Member

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Joanie Dickerson
 Dept. Chaplain/Music Chairman
 Ph: 608-996-2152
 Email: jomarie@tds.net

Growing up during the Vietnam War era, I watched the evening news with its reports of how the war was going in Southeast Asia. Images and statistics were flashed on the screen nightly and we all saw first-hand the tragedy of armed conflict. This month marks the 47th anniversary of the Tet Offensive. Although you may not remember exactly to what that label refers, you might remember it as a milestone in the war as it represents the turning point for domestic support and the realization by the American public that overall victory in Vietnam was not imminent. Along with that, the shameful treatment of our returning combat troops by anti-war demonstrators really began in the aftermath of the Tet Offensive.

We are once again facing a withdrawal of troops from an armed conflict in which we cannot claim clear victory. Let us continue supporting our service men and women as they return home to rebuild their lives. It is one of the reasons our organization was founded 96 years ago, caring for veterans.

March 15th is the birthday of The American Legion and I pray you will gather with your Post to celebrate this anniversary with gratitude for the sacrifices made by veterans present and those who have gone on to Post Everlasting. It is who we are. They are why we do all that we do. If not us, who will?

Prayer

Lord – You are the rock and strength of this nation. You are the only one who can deliver us from our enemies. We trust in You and pray humbly for Your guidance and direction for this great nation. Give us wisdom to make right choices. Help us to live in such a way that Your name will be honored in all things. May you forever be praised. Amen.

Music

After singing "Happy Birthday American Legion" at your upcoming gathering, give a thought or two about our members of Irish descent. There have been many popular songs about them through the years. How many can you sing? This is one of my favorites!

McNamara's Band

By: Shamus O'Connor and John J. Stamford, lyrics by The Three Jesters.

*My name is McNamara, I'm the Leader of the Band,
 And tho' we're small in number we're the best in all the land.*

*Oh! I am the Conductor, and we often have to play
 With all the best musicianers you hear about today.*

*When the drums go bang, the cymbals clang, the
 horns will blaze away,
 MacCarthy puffs the ould bassoon while Doyle the
 pipes will play;
 Oh! Hennessy Tennessy tootles the flute, my word
 'tis something grand,
 Oh! a credit to Ould Ireland, boys, is McNamara's
 Band!*

*Whenever an election's on, we play on either side-
 The way we play our fine ould airs fills Irish hearts
 with pride.
 Oh! If poor Tom Moore was living now, he'd make
 yez understand
 That none could do him justice like ould McNamara's
 Band*



GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Bonnie Dorniak
 Executive Secretary/Treasurer
 Ph: (608) 745-0124
 Email: deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org

Any member whose dues were not processed by department as of January 31st is delinquent and membership benefits and privileges have been suspended. If you let your membership lapse but want to continue to honor that special veteran in your family, please send your membership dues to headquarters today.

ALA Badger Girls State still has space available. Submit your unit reservation form if you have not already done so and check out the Girls State website (www.badgergirlsstate.org) for up-to-date information on the 2015 session, including orientations scheduled in your area.

Auxiliary scholarship applications must be submitted to Education Chairman Christine Johnson by March 15th for consideration. Encourage qualified students – unit members, friends, family and neighbors – to apply for these scholarships. Applications can be downloaded from the department website.



Diane Weggen, Department Chairman
 Ph: 715-644-2668

Email: dsweggen@centurytel.net

More than three hundred members have "raised their voices in song" becoming leaders "for our veterans" and "celebrating faith, family and freedom" by participating in leadership trainings or workshops. Unit members worked with the Department Leadership Team to promote the purpose of the ALA Leadership Program: to develop leaders at all levels, grow membership, and mentor members of all ages.

The Auxiliary leadership program is designed to build good member skills and to provide information about the Auxiliary. Good leaders are members who participate in Unit activities and programs and who strive to achieve the mission ("...Service, Not Self...fellowship, patriotism, peace and security") of the Auxiliary. All members, prospective members, and American Legion Family members can find value in participating in a leadership workshop. Units, counties, and districts still have time to schedule a workshop this year.

With the preparation of presentations and updating the handbook, the Depart-



Christine Johnsen, Dept. Chairman
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ment website. One of the primary functions of the Education Program of the American Legion Auxiliary is to promote scholarships and education beyond high school, especially for military and veteran's children.

It is scholarship season! Now is the time to ensure that all students who are eligible for American Legion Auxiliary scholarships are aware of the program, the requirements, and most importantly, how to apply. Scholarship materials were sent to all high schools in Wisconsin in the fall. Scholarship information is also posted on the department website (www.amlegionauxwi.org) under the 'Scholarships' link.

If you haven't done so already, unit and district Education Chairmen should reach

ment website.

Do you know any Auxiliary members who could use financial assistance for college? The M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan Fund offers interest-free loans of \$800 per year for up to five years to Auxiliary members attending college. The loan is repaid in easy monthly payments after the student graduates or finishes school. Interested members should contact Chairman Sandra Hinkle for an application or more information.

Unit Year-End Impact Reports are due to District Presidents and Unit Narrative Reports are due to department headquarters by April 15th. These reports are the best tools for allowing the American Legion Auxiliary to be recognized for all the wonderful things we do throughout the year. Every unit does something – from distributing poppies to hosting community blood drives. Members should be proud of their service and report it! President Teresa Isensee will review the narrative reports to select units for special recognition at Department Convention.

Last year, only 264 of Wisconsin's 428

LEADERSHIP

ment Leadership Team began workshops and trainings. Two 45-minute sessions explained the Leadership Plan of Action for the year and "How To..." handouts at the Paper Fair were a part of the Fall Informational Forum. Thanks to District 12 Hawkins Unit 174, District 8 New London Unit 263, and District 2 Beaver Dam Unit 146 for hosting leadership workshops to enhance members' knowledge about ALA history, programs and the organization, plus leadership, membership, and culture of goodwill.

Because good leadership is a basic for building membership, leadership was a component of Department President Teresa Isensee's Concert Tours. One-hour leadership trainings were presented at Concert Tours hosted by District 6 Fond du Lac Unit 75, District 3 Waunakee Unit 360, District 1 Union Grove Unit 171, District 7 Thorp Unit 118, and District 9 Oconto Falls Unit 302. Auxiliary programs, membership, and nurturing a culture of goodwill were also components of the Concert Tours.

All members are strongly encouraged to join the 36 members who have success-

fully taken the "Auxiliary Basics" course – formerly called Leadership Correspondence Course, which can be found on the Programs page of the Department website. Correspondence Course - Sr. has the cover sheet, answer sheet, and exam questions. The information can be found in A Capsule History of the First 90 Years and The Unit is the Foundation. The Correspondence Course - Jr. and Junior Leadership Info Sheet are for Juniors. Even members who took the course within the past two years are encouraged to take the course again.

Complete the 2014-2015 Leadership Report Checklist to "raise your voice in song" becoming a leader "for our veterans" "celebrating faith, family, and freedom".

Please mail narrative program reports and pictures of Leadership activities to department headquarters by April 15, 2015. Department will forward the information to me.

*2014-2015 Leadership Team:
 Diane Weggen, Berne Baer
 and Patricia Smith*

EDUCATION

out to the guidance counselors and/or principals at the local high schools to offer assistance in the scholarship application process. Some questions that should be addressed:

- 1) Is the school aware of this scholarship program?
- 2) Do they have copies of, or access to, the applications?
- 3) Do students know how to obtain a copy of a DD214 or other eligibility requirements?
- 4) Are they aware of the deadline?

I am receiving many inquiries asking how to get in touch with the local Auxiliary units to sign the application. Let's be proactive and reach out to the local schools with this information.

The most important thing to remember

when reviewing scholarship applications is they need to be complete and include all requested items. In the past, too many deserving applicants have been disqualified for incomplete applications. Please work with the scholarship applicants in your area and review applications for completeness at the unit level prior to submitting them.

Units are reminded to mail narrative program reports regarding Education activities to department headquarters by April 15, 2015. Department will forward the information to me. Details are in the annual report packets that were mailed in December and are posted on the department website.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns related to the Education Program.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Laura Calteux, Dept. Chairman
 Email: calteuxx2@sbcglobal.net
 Cell: 414-379-2943

CALLING ALL MEMBERS!!!

Reading to children in the library, volunteering at a run/walk event, volunteering in your local school, helping a military family in need, hosting a fundraiser and inviting other community groups to help – these are just a few ways that you can participate in the Community Service program.

The Community Service program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's visibility within our localities through our commitment to community, state and nation. By being brand advocates with the Community Service Program, our members demonstrate who we are, what we do and why we matter.

"Brand advocate" is the statement that jumps out at you in the Community Service mission above. As we work our Community Service programs, you need to be a brand advocate for the American Legion Auxiliary.

By brand advocate, we mean that you are wearing your Auxiliary branded clothing, or a name tag that identifies you as a member of the largest women's patriotic service organization in the world. Be proud that you are a member and use the Community Service program to teach those in your communities about our programs.

Don't forget to mail narrative program reports to describe how you volunteer in your communities and promote the American Legion Auxiliary. Annual reports are due to department headquarters by April 15, 2015. Department will forward the Community Service information to me.

There are also awards that you can apply for. All information that pertains to the awards and the requirements to apply for those awards can be found on the department website. See the following list:

Unit Community Service Award – This is a national award. Submit entry to Laura Calteux by May 10, 2015.

• Unit "Share What You Are Doing" Award – recognition for all

entries in the national eBulletin and a drawing will be held for five entries to receive a gift certificate. All entries must be submitted by June 1, 2015 to Division Chairman Karon Cook, 3622 NW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS 66617.

• Million Members Award – a unit award presented to one unit chairman in each division. Submit entries to Laura Calteux by April 15, 2015.

• Community Service Senior Volunteer of the Year – a member award presented to one member in each division. Submit entry to Laura Calteux by May 15, 2015.

• Community Service Junior Volunteer of the Year – a member award presented to one Junior member in each division. Submit entry to Laura Calteux by May 15, 2015.

Using the Community Service program can increase the visibility of your unit in your community. Being active in your community will make your unit a "go to" source for military families and our veterans. Stay active and see what happens!!

CALENDAR FUNDRAISER WINNERS JANUARY 2015

1	500.00	68316	Carol Toraason	Blair
2	15.00	25878	Linda Kasper	Eagle River
3	15.00	45725	Mary Schmidt	Burlington
4	25.00	66335	Ronald Lonze	Delavan
5	15.00	49897	Sandra Herfel	Monona
6	15.00	25921	Arlene Loper	Lac du Flambeau
7	15.00	53104	Jim Winkenwerder	Hortonville
8	15.00	66225	Mary Schirmer	Plymouth
9	15.00	54262	Virginia Hughes	West Bend
10	15.00	44448	Diane Smith	Mineral Point
11	25.00	27300	Joyce Church	Stevens Point
12	15.00	40678	Hannelore Winters	Superior
13	15.00	34629	Janet McCormick	Soldiers Grove
14	15.00	56743	Kim Shanks	Portage
15	15.00	49614	Steven Finke	Wauwatosa
16	15.00	26728	Joan Chwala	Gilman
17	15.00	49770	Gladys Zuehlke	Loyal
18	25.00	37790	Linda Jermstad	Osseo
19	15.00	28401	Dorothy Reinke	Reedsville
20	15.00	47109	Abler-Engel Legion Post #454	Mt Calvary
21	15.00	40462	Michelle Laatsch	Mayville
22	15.00	48216	Renee Cull	Hartford
23	15.00	49621	George Herberg	Appleton
24	15.00	62439	Joseph & Chrissy Duscheck	Whitefish Bay
25	25.00	55544	Elizabeth Hurst	Evansville
26	15.00	70345	Gerda Aarness	Westby
27	15.00	61127	Renee Stewart	Watertown
28	15.00	55005	Mary Jane Clemens	Lodi
29	15.00	36109	Molly Stancil	West Salem
30	15.00	28345	Lois Hoida	Luxemburg
31	15.00	59354	Gertie Merten	Fond du Lac

In Memory of Joan Wilkinson



The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin, is sad to report that 8th District President Joan Wilkinson passed away on January 29, 2015 after a long battle with cancer. Condolences may be sent to the family in care of her daughter: Shelley Wilkinson, 414 Spaulding Street, Tigerton, WI 54486. Shelley Wilkinson, who served as District Vice President, will assume the responsibilities of District President through Department Convention.



2015 DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCES

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	REGISTRATION TIME/FEE	LUNCHEON COST	CHECK PAYABLE TO:	SEND CHECK TO:	CONTACT	DEAD-LINE
#1	4/25/15	Orfordville AL Post 209 3919 S. State Rd 213 Orfordville, WI 53576	8:00-9:00 am Fee: \$15.00	Included in Fee	ALA Orfordville Unit 209	Shannon Little 3820 Chesapeake Ave. Janesville, WI 53546	Kitty Larkin: 262-649-3399 kittysltr@wi.rr.com	4/11/15
#2	4/25/15	1st Reformed Church 527 Giddings Ave., Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085	8:00 am Fee: \$2.00	\$15.00	ALA Sheboygan County	Betty Grothe 955 Anton Rd., Plymouth, WI 53073	Betty Grothe 920-892-6377	4/11/15
#3	4/25/15	Community Commerce Ctr 16381 Highway 131 Gays Mills, WI 54631	8:00-9:00 am Fee: \$3.00	\$7.00	ALA Unit 308	Julia Flitsch 16608 State Hwy 131 Gays Mills, WI 54631	Karen Johnson 608-632-0597 klrmjohnson@gmail.com	4/15/15
#4	5/2/15	Greendale AL Post 416 6351 W. Grange Ave., Greendale, WI 53129	10:00 am Fee: \$2.00	\$16.00	ALA 4th District	Sue Hembrook 24215 60th Street Salem, WI 53168	Sue Hembrook 262-843-4791 genesuehem@wi.rr.com	4/17/15
#5	No Conference							
#6	4/18/15	New Holstein Unit 124 1922 Wisconsin Avenue New Holstein, WI 53061	8:00 am Fee & Lunch: \$12.00	Included in Fee	ALA Calumet County	Arlene DeTroye 830 Seventh St Kiel, WI 53042	Arlene DeTroye: 920-894-2014	4/1/15
#7	3/21/15	Holmen AL Post 284 419 1st Avenue E. Holmen, WI 54636	8:00-9:00 am Fee: \$12.00	Included in Fee	ALA Unit 284	Mary Clements 108 Irene Place Holmen, WI 54636	Mary Clements: 608-526-3383	3/14/15
#8	4/25/15	New London AL Post 263 840 E. North Water St., New London, WI 54961	8:00-9:00 am Fee: \$3.00	\$17.00	ALA Unit 263	Donna Bellettiere N5019 Old 54 Rd. Shiocton, WI 54170	Donna Bellettiere: 920-986-3712	4/15/15
#9	5/2/15	Forestville, WI	To Be Determined					
#10	4/18/15	Cumberland Senior Center 1255 Webb St. Cumberland, WI 54829	8:00-9:00 am Fee: \$3.00	\$10.00	ALA Unit 98	Mary Townsend 1887 21st Street Rice Lake, WI 54868	Mary Townsend 715-234-5155	4/1/15
#11	4/18/15	Eagle River, WI	To Be Determined					
#12	5/30-31/15	Cable Unit 487	To Be Determined					

REMINDER!!

Please visit the American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State website (www.badgergirlsstate.org) to view the most recent orientation schedule for the 2015 Badger Girls State session. Sponsoring Units should encourage their delegates, alternates, parents and school officials to attend the orientation in their local area.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Junior Spring Conference will be held on July 11, 2015 in Madison. All American Legion Auxiliary junior members are encouraged to attend. Details will be provided closer to the conference.



TEAM DUSCHECK UPDATE

THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU! Fundraising events are off and running for Diane Duscheck, Wisconsin's endorsed candidate for American Legion Auxiliary National President!

A variety of fundraisers are planned around the state during The American Legion, Auxiliary, SAL or AL Rider events to help offset costs associated with running for ALA's highest office. Watch for fundraisers at your unit, Spring District Conference and during Department Leadership Concert Tours, Department Convention and Fall Informational Forum. Large or small donations are welcome. Your continued support is so appreciated.

Personal donations are also welcome. If you choose to do so, please make checks payable to "ALA National Candidate Fundraiser" and mail to Diana Sirovina, Treasurer of Team Duscheck, 9428 W. Eden Place, Milwaukee, WI 53228.

If you have questions or would like to share ideas on how to raise funds for Diane Duscheck, please contact one of the following Team

Duscheck members:

Department Team:

- Chairman Joyce Endres
Ph: 608-221-1763
Email: ljendres@charter.net
- Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan
Ph: 608-246-9707
Email: jlp004@charter.net
- Diana Sirovina
Ph: 414-321-1479
Email: sirovina@att.net
- Char Kiesling
Ph: 920-725-0121
Email: charbabym@yahoo.com
- Virginia Kodl
Ph: 715-669-5432
Email: kodlvirg@yahoo.com
- Pat Smith
Ph: 608-786-4441
Email: pms112ws@gmail.com

District Teams:

- District 1:** Pearl Behrend, Jan Jordan or Chris Ertl
- District 2:** Violet Feldman, Mary Petrie, Judy Kuta or Karen Degner
- District 3:** LaVon Schurman, Rose Wenger, Florence Wasley, Joanie Dickerson, Joann Mautz, Ann

Rynes, Rebecca Lovell or Donna Gough

District 4: Sue Hembrook or Bonnie Jakubczyk

District 5: Wilma Kidney

District 6: Sandra Hinkle, Beth Puddy, Nancy Helms, Ginny Cutler or Judy Randy-Schulz

District 7: Andrea Page, Charlotte Hoffmann, Diane Weggen or Susie Krueger

District 8: Barbara Kranig, Diane Kranig, Penny Joren, Gladys Beese or Eunice Bauman

District 9: Loretta Shellman, Berne Baer, Jeannine Conradt, Linda Coppock or Ann Lotter

District 10: Joan Chwala or Judy Walters

District 11: Janiece Fischer or Theresa Schindler

District 12: Gayle Janson or Laurel DuBois

"A simple gesture of kindness can make your day, or even your life."

– Bonnie Sharp
(Doug Moe Article May 1, 2013)

SERVICE TO VETERANS

Kelli Mades,
Department Chairman

Email: kelli_mades@yahoo.com
Ph: 608-385-6693

March is here and spring is right around the corner! So now what? Yearly reports will be coming due and I hope you have been recording your hours and money spent on your individual tally sheet. These sheets should be turned into your Unit VA&R Chairman or your Unit President soon. I will need these sheets to record your hours and process them. You may qualify this year for a new Service to Veterans pin or an hour bar. The hours are cumulative from year to year. It is important that we report your hours to National so that Congress

knows how much we do for our veterans. I can only report what I get from you, so please let me know all the Service to Veterans projects you have done.

As your Service to Veterans Chairman, I am working very hard with Department to get every name and all the hours from field and home service into a database. By doing this, it will help keep track of everyone's volunteer hours. Another added bonus about doing this is it will put this program into the 21st century!

Please mail narrative program reports and pictures of Service to Veterans activities (formerly known as Home Service and Field Service) to department headquar-

ters by April 15, 2015. Department will forward the information to me.

If you have any questions, need a tally sheet or help filling it out, please do not hesitate to contact me. I love hearing about your projects and am always happy to answer your questions.

Keep those projects going for our veterans. Put a smile on a veteran's face and a good feeling in your heart. Enjoy what you do – believe it or not you are making a difference!

Not what we give,
But what we share,
For the gift without the giver
Is bare
~James Russell Lowell

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Joyce E. Endres, Department Chairman
ljendres@charter.net
608-221-1763

The Wisconsin Strategic Planning Team needs your input as grass root members of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA). As a grass root member, your involvement in the five year strategic plan leverages knowledge, skills, views, and experiences of many, instead of a few, and involves those who are most impacted by the plan.

I just finished reading an article published in the In Business magazine, entitled "How to Love Your Job", written by Jenna Atkinson, President of CONNECT Madison. She wrote about her father's recent retirement after 36 years of service with the same company. She asked him three key questions about his professional life.

This article inspired me to ASK YOU similar questions to get your input about your life as a member of the ALA and its family. Your answers will be applied to strategic planning initiatives being built to help the ALA continue our mission of 'service not self' for all we serve. **Please e-mail or send me a letter with your answers to these three questions.**

Grass root member input is important.

1. What is your favorite part about belonging to the ALA?
2. What advice would you give to a new ALA member?
3. What is your biggest challenge as an ALA member, officer, or committee chairman/member?

Do you want to read Jenna's dad's answers? I included them here to help inspire you.

1. "The people". He said, "There will always be difficult people in the world, but the majority of them have good intentions. Everyone is fighting his or her bat-

les, so be kind and always willing to help." Jenna stated, "Invest in getting to know people and helping them succeed, and it will pay huge dividends in your career and life."

2. "Look for a company (organization) that would help support you and your professional growth in the same way you contribute to its success and growth." This answer says to me, you reap what you sow, or you need to love to be loved, or you get out what you put into an organization.

3. Twenty years ago the corporate office asked if he would be willing to take a promotion based on his excellent performance record. Due to his life situation at the time, he turned down the promotion. He said, "The biggest challenge was not making the decision but learning to love his job for what it was." Jenna responded saying, "Based on the comments from his peers and supervisors at his retirement party, I would say that he not only found a way to love his job, he also found ways to spread his dedication, positivity and passion to everyone around him."

Bottom line: His answers ask us to get to know fellow members on a deeper level, find ways to show dedication to your organization, and take steps to love what you do.

Your dedication, positive attitude and passion for what the American Legion Auxiliary stands for will ensure veterans, active military and their families, our communities and youth will continue to reap the benefits of our service because "we love the American Legion Auxiliary". Please contact me with your answers to the three questions or let me know if you want to be more actively involved by becoming a member of Wisconsin's Strategic Planning Team. God bless you for your service.



MISSION: 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.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 7, 2015	National Training for All Auxiliary Members Dino's Restaurant 2900 New Pinery Road, Portage	April 22, 2015	Hospital Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon - King	June 21-26, 2015	ALA Badger Girls State UW-Oshkosh
March 27, 2015	ALABGS Scholarship Judging Meeting • Dept. Headquarters	May 6, 2015	Hospital Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon - Tomah	June 26-27, 2015	Dept. Leadership Conference Dept. Headquarters Portage, WI
March 28, 2015	ALABGS Committee Meeting Department Headquarters	May 16, 2015	President Teresa Isensee's Testimonial Dinner Eagles Club Chippewa Falls, WI	July 11, 2015	Junior Spring Conference Madison, WI
April 9, 2015	Hospital Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon - Union Grove	May 16, 2015	Oconomowoc Walk/Run/Roll Proceeds benefit Fisher House WI Jill Gust 262-719-7280 or Jan Schmittinger at 414-379-1995	July 16-19, 2015	Department Convention Radisson Paper Valley Appleton, WI
April 11-12, 2015	WALA Bowling Tournament Sabre Lanes, Menasha	May 20, 2015	Hospital Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon - Zablocki	Aug 28-Sep 3, 2015	National Convention Baltimore, MD
April 15, 2015	Hospital Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon - Iron Mountain	June 6, 2015	Commander Bob Shappell's Testimonial Dinner Country Inn & Suites Port Washington, WI	Sep 18-19, 2015	Fall Informational Forum The Plaza Hotel & Suites Eau Claire, WI
April 18-19, 2015	WALA Bowling Tournament Sabre Lanes, Menasha				

Information is subject to change