



MEMBERSHIP

As I wind down my year as Membership Chair for the Department of Wisconsin, I want to thank each and every one of you for all you do for the American Legion Auxiliary, our veterans and military, their families and our communities. I have traveled all around the state making personal visits to many of your units. From the smallest units to some of our larger ones, I have been absolutely amazed and impressed by your dedication to service not self. Each of you truly touches the lives of your communities, veterans and military. I've seen how the smallest gesture of a simple phone call or card can have a huge impact on a person's life, making them feel remembered and valued.

In some of the reports I have gotten back, some units stated they did not know what our RV calls were. In keeping with the "National Parks" theme—**RV** stood for "**R**each out and **V**isit." It was a call to encourage units to **R**each out and **V**isit with those members who can no longer come to meetings, veterans in our nursing homes, or anyone struggling with depression—our youth, military, and veterans.

National has challenged us to reach the goal of 95% by June 12, 2026, Female Veteran's Day, and we are so very close! We are currently at 90.40%.

Let's help get President Sue to 95% by June 12th and 100% by convention! **R**each out and **V**isit those members who haven't renewed yet!

ALA WISCONSIN SUPPORTS CAMP AMERICAN LEGION



The American Legion has been fundraising to build a large shed at Camp American Legion to store pontoon boats and other equipment over the winter. On behalf of the generous Auxiliary units and members across Wisconsin, President Sue Hembrook presented a check for \$50,000 to Camp Director Jim Klement and Camp American Legion Committee Chair Jeff Zwiers to support this effort. They are planning to break ground this summer on the storage shed.

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING JUNE 30, 2026 AT 6:30 PM VIA ZOOM

All Past Presidents at the unit, county, district or department level are invited to attend the annual PPP Business Meeting. Rather than meeting at department convention, the meeting will be held virtually to encourage broader participation.

Please scan the QR code on
Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at 6:30 pm
to join the meeting!

PPP Dues (\$7) will be collected at convention
or may be mailed to:
Linda Coppock
N3894 Loss Road
Weyauwega WI 54983



SPRING SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS FOR 2026

Thank you to everyone who supported
The American Legion Auxiliary's Spring
Sweepstakes and made it so successful.
Congratulations to all the winners!

\$500 AWARDS

Ralph Frydenlund
Betty Telvick
Sandy Prochnow
Barbara Ferfecki
Carol Kohl
Betty Telvick

\$400 AWARDS

Kaye Kmiec
Sheila Drea
Marg Wangeline
Mary Neumann
David Balling
Thomas Belisle
Donna Hart
Mary Crosby

\$300 AWARDS

David Gaulke
Mary Ertl
Richard Rouleau
Pam Abfall
Sue Nauman
Lori Boyum
Andrew Abfall
Robert Prelipp
Lynda Nowak
Karen Cukla
Gregory Engen
M&M Scott Holmes
Robert Miller, Jr.
Michael Lange
John Alferi
Thomas Eser

\$200 AWARDS

Susie Davidson
Denis Gloede
Kaia Glenn
William Noth
Edward & Linda Moline
Randy & Cindy Zydzik
Garland Gibson
Tracy Luedtke
Floyd Rose
Ralph Frydenlund
Alana Gross
Heidi Kozlowski
Cherilyn Hare
Don Riggs
Bruce Kraabel
Jerry Pelot
Donald Treinen
Katherine Lansing
Virginia Drath
Allen Searles

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP TEAM

Christina Petranovich
Department Chairman
christina.petranovich@
yahoo.com
715-512-0628

Diane Burkhalter
Committee Member
burkhalterd@gmail.com
414-807-0501

Claudia Osero
Committee Member
countonclaudia@gmail.com
715-612-2161

Andrea Stoltz
Membership
Program Coordinator
alawi@amlegionauxwi.org
608-745-0124

**Membership
Totals
- 90.40%**
(as of 5/13/2026)

District	Goal %
4	99.79%
11	96.98%
3	93.31%
6	92.97%
2	92.39%
9	91.37%
1	90.32%
7	90.28%
12	90.05%
10	87.89%
8	86.95%
5	86.03%

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the units and members who sent condolences upon the passing of my dad, Jim Bennett. All of your thoughts, prayers, and cards meant a lot to me and my family during a difficult time. ~ Bonnie Dorniak

My dad is my "why." He proudly served his Country in the Communications Center of General Douglas MacArthur's Headquarters in Japan during the Korean War. I honor his service through my membership in the American Legion Auxiliary. Who do you honor with your membership?



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Sandy Mack
 Department Chaplain/Music Chairman
 Smack0555@gmail.com
 262-388-9816

Has your unit implemented the POW/MIA Empty Chair Program at all meetings? Have you read *America's White Table* by Margot Theis Raven? I highly recommend this book. It is sold on Amazon for \$14.99.

The White Table is set in many mess halls as a symbol for and remembrance to service members fallen, missing, or held captive in the line of duty. Solitary and solemn, it is the table where no one will ever sit.

In the book, as a special gift to her Uncle John, Katie and her sisters are asked to help set the white table for dinner. As their mother explains the significance of each item placed on the table, Katie comes to understand and appreciate the depth of sacrifice that her uncle and each member of the Armed Forces and their families may be called to give.

This is how the book starts:

It was just a little white table... but it felt as big as America when we helped Mama put each item on it and she told us why it was so important. "We use a Small Table, girls," she explained first, "to show one soldier's lonely battle against many. We cover it with a White Cloth to honor a soldier's pure heart when he answers his country's call to duty. We place a Lemon Slice and Grains of Salt on a plate to show a captive soldier's bitter fate and the tears of families waiting for loved ones to return," she continued. "We push an Empty Chair to the table for the missing soldiers who are not here..."

POW'S/MIA'S should never be forgotten.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, we lift up our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. Protect them with Your presence, give them unwavering courage, and bring them safely home to our waiting arms. Comfort their families, strengthen our resolve to never forget, and bring justice to all who served. Amen.

~ The American Legion National Headquarters



Sweepstakes winners are posted at amlegionauxwi.org under the "More" tab.

Bonnie Dorniak
 Executive Secretary/Treasurer
 608-745-0124
 deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org
 www.amlegionauxwi.org

May 22 was officially National Poppy Day – but poppies may be distributed all year long! Units and posts that completed poppy distributions are reminded to submit their 20% poppy profit report to department headquarters as soon as possible. The remaining proceeds must be used for the welfare of veterans, active-duty military, and their families where a medical or financial need is evident. The report form is posted on the department website.

The 2026 Department Convention will be held July 17-18, 2026 at the Hilton Paper Valley in Appleton. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Auxiliary, visit with old friends, and meet new ones. Registration is \$30, payable to The American Legion. Registrations received after July 6 are \$35. Please visit the department website for complete details.

Due to issues with delayed postal service last year, **delegate forms will be emailed to all unit presidents** 30 days prior to convention (June 17, 2026) and should be completed and returned immediately. Please monitor your email inbox and spam/junk folder for this important information! If a unit does not receive its delegate form, please contact department headquarters ASAP.

The ALA National Convention is August 31 to September 2, 2026 in Louisville, Kentucky. Details from the national organization will be posted on the department website when they become available (usually mid-June). Members interested in attending should contact Department Secretary Bonnie Dorniak at deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org if they want a registration packet.

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND (AEF)

Bonnie Dorniak
 Department Secretary
 deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org
 608-745-0124

Thank you to all the units that submitted an AEF year-end report. Units educated their members on the AEF and generously donated more than \$17,000 to help other ALA members in need.

AEF provides temporary emergency assistance to eligible ALA members who have endured a significant financial setback as a result of an act of nature or personal crisis. With the flooding that impacted Wisconsin in April, encourage members who need assistance to apply for a grant before it's too late. Applications must be submitted electronically through the national website within three months of the disaster and awards are limited to one grant per grantee in a 12-month period. One unit reported they helped two Wisconsin members apply for and receive grant funding after floods damaged their homes last fall. Help is available for those who need it!

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

2026 Department Convention Highlights

(subject to change)

Hilton Paper Valley, Appleton
July 17-18, 2026

Friday, July 17, 2026

8:30 am Opening Processional
 8:45 am-5:00 pm General Session with a break for lunch

Saturday, July 18, 2026

8:00 am-2:30 pm General Session with Elections at 9:00 am and a break for lunch
 3:00 pm Installation of 2026-2027 Department Officers and District Presidents
 4:30 pm Post-Convention DEC Meeting
 5:00 pm Church Services
 7:00 pm-11:00 pm All Legion Family members are invited to the Past Commanders Club Party with Dueling Pianos. Advance ticket purchase required – see registration form for details.

Sunday, July 19, 2026

8:00 am Joint Memorial Service
 9:00 am-11:00 am Orientation for 2026-2027 Department Officers, District Presidents and District Membership Chairmen

NOTES:

The PPP Annual Business Meeting will be held virtually on June 30. See page A1 for details. Bring a raffle basket! Raffles will be held from Thursday, July 16 to Saturday, July 18.

The American Legion has chartered a bus to national convention for \$300 round-trip. The bus leaves Department Headquarters in Portage on August 28 at 8:00 am and departs Louisville on September 3 at 10:00 am, arriving back to HQ around 7:00 pm. Reserve your spot before August 7. If the bus is not filled by

then, it will be cancelled.

Four ALA In The Know Conferences are scheduled each Saturday from September 12 through October 3. The reservation deadline is August 12. The reservation form was mailed to all units in April and is available on the department website under Programs > ALA In The Know.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC)

Maggie Geiger
 NEC
 maggieg4ala@gmail.com
 262-377-0329

The National Executive Committee (NEC) oversees the organization's financial responsibilities, reviews the annual budget, and national policies. There is a strong focus on leadership development, member engagement, and communications growth. Work continues to equip departments and members with tools, resources, and training to help achieve success today and in the future.

Some tools and resources for member engagement include the ALA Academy, webinars, and the national website. On the website, you can learn more about our programs and access templates for letters, media releases, and more.

Zoom meetings have played a key role in maintaining fiscal responsibility. They have enabled successful meetings attended by many NEC members who share their thoughts. Monthly reports from National Executive Director Ben Hendricks are sent to keep us informed.

The national organization works tirelessly to develop ways to help our departments and units. Questions raised by our members are continually discussed to identify solutions that support them. Here are a few examples:

- Why do people join the ALA? What is their "why?"
- We keep some members engaged while others drift away. How can we improve?
- What is a better way to improve a first-year member's experience?
- How can we better equip units for success?

I had the pleasure of attending the Washington Conference in March, held in Washington, D.C. The American Legion Family visited senators and representatives to advocate for the Legion's legislative priorities. There were joint sessions in which we learned more about benefits, job opportunities, and other information to help veterans, service members, and their families.

I am grateful for the opportunity to represent the Department of Wisconsin and to help make decisions that keep our organization viable now and in the future.

AMERICANISM

Deanna Farley
Department Chairman
 920-810-2664
 farleyofsc@gmail.com

We all practice Americanism every day and for most of us it is the usual way of life. This winter those of us who live in the northern communities had ample chances to help our veterans and other aging citizens as they plowed through several feet of snow and sanded driveways to prevent falls. A fall can mean a broken bone or sprain which can be bad for anyone but especially for the elderly. I am sure they will appreciate anything we can do to make their life a little easier. Part of our Americanism program includes being a responsible citizen and caring for others is just that. Winter weather can be nasty at times, but summer is right around the corner. These same people will have lawns to cut, weeds to be pulled and flowers looking good!

While you are taking care of all those chores, make sure their flag looks good as well! The Americanism program includes proper flag etiquette and awareness in communities. Did your unit order pamphlets on "Let's be Right on Flag Etiquette?" They are available on the Emblem Sales website for \$1.00 each.

Many units submitted Americanism reports. I received 310 reports. Many included pictures of their activities throughout the year. Lots of units have parades at this time of the year to celebrate the Memorial Day Holiday. Some had traveling Patriotic Art Fairs. I thought that was unique and a great idea!

Units are actively promoting Americanism through ALA Badger Girls State, the Americanism Essay Contest, Flag Day, displaying Americanism in schools, and assisting aging veterans in our communities. Units still find the time to participate and assist with The American Legion programs such as American Legion Baseball, American Legion Softball, Badger Boys State, the Oratorical Contest, Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy, and Junior Shooting Sports. And this year we will celebrate the 250th birthday of our country. Many plans for that party this summer!!

ALA Department of Wisconsin 2026 Scholarship Winners

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

H. S. & Angeline Lewis
 (1) \$1,000 award – Graduate Student
 No qualified applicant

H. S. & Angeline Lewis
 (5) \$1,000 awards

Eric Moser, Oconomowoc	Pewaukee #71-1
Kailee Frank, Luxemburg	Casco #319-9
Carmen Frese, Owen	Owen #123-7
Pierce Gerl, New Franken	Green Bay #11-9
Jack Wendler, Withee	Owen #123-7

Merit & Memorial
 (8) \$1,000 awards

Adalin Macauley
 Ryan Smiskey, Chippewa Falls Chippewa Falls #77-10

Eleanor Smith
 Anna Annoye, Luxemburg Luxemburg #262-9

Pearl Behrend
 Isaac Gunby, Mt Horeb Mt Horeb #113-3

Barbara Kranig
 Brianna Bray, Luxemburg Luxemburg #262-9

Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan
 James Lange, Shawano Clintonville #63-8

Diane Duscheck
 Aaliyah White, Beaver Dam Beaver Dam #146-2

Harriet Hass
 John Athorp, Howards Grove Sheboygan Falls #149-2

Merit Scholarship
 Delaney Smiskey, Chippewa Falls Chippewa Falls #77-10

Department Presidents
 (3) \$1,000 awards

Clare Yopp, Burlington	Burlington #79-1
Jayden Dalton, Omro	Omro #234-6
Samantha Baldauf, Windsor	Sun Prairie #333-3

Van Deuren Memorial
 (1) \$1,000 award

Kelsey Moore Wautoma #317-8

Past Presidents Parley
 (3) \$1,000 awards

Cora Healy-Dougherty, Highland	Avoca #335-3
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Nursing

Chloe Dybul, Fredonia	Fredonia #410-2
Josie Gueths, Leopolis	Caroline #456-8

Child Welfare
 (1) \$1,000 award
 No qualified applicant

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship
 – Wisconsin's Nominee
 Claire Emeyla, Forestville

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship
 – Wisconsin's Nominee
 La' Wanda Bass, Milwaukee

Spirit of Youth for Junior Members Scholarship
 – Wisconsin's Nominee
 Cadence Rose, Clintonville

Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship
 – Wisconsin's Nominee
 Kate Fechner, La Crosse

ALABGS SCHOLARSHIPS

Badger Girls State Scholarship
 (6) \$500 awards

Olivia Tierney, McFarland	McFarland #534-3
Abigail Albrightson, Whitefish Bay	Oconomowoc #91-1
Eden Wilson, Port Washington	Port Washington #82-2
Grace Poindexter, Muskego	Waukesha #8-1
Lydia VanArk, Owen	Lublin #547-11
Faith Derleth, Tomahawk	Tomahawk #93-11

Eileen Knox Memorial Scholarship
 (1) \$500 award
 Cadence Rose, Clintonville Clintonville #63-8

Harry & Shirley Kuehl Foundation Scholarship
 (1) \$500 award

Mara Dickson, Browntown Monroe #84-3

2026 Americanism Essay Winners

Essay Title: "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans who Fought for our Freedom."

(Winners by Class with Sponsors)

Class I – Grades 3 & 4

Lucas Mercer	Port Washington #82
Kate Chevremont	Appleton #38
Chenoa Songetary	Siren #132
Hadley Judas	Berlin #340
Coy Wayne Turner III	Union Grove #171

Class II – Grades 5 & 6

Everly Bending	Berlin #340
Coy Lomas	Wauzeka #458
Kiyia Krueger-Rook	Menomonee Falls #382
Lily Kurz	Chilton #125
Dhruv Narasimhan	Port Washington #82

Class III – Grades 7 & 8

Kasil Mueller	Lublin #547
Elsie Mallmann	Appleton #38
Rian Lueck	Bangor #40
Kelay Jakob	Loyal #175
Enoch Chi	Menomonee Falls #382

Class IV – Grades 9 & 10

Helena Hamers	Allenton #483
Francine Uwomahoro	Menomonee Falls #382

Class V – Grades 11 & 12

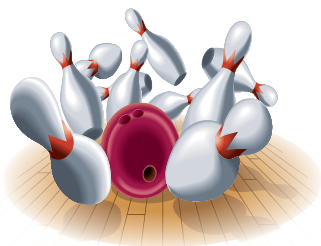
Donna Hollenbeck	Cambria #401
Ruby McCartney	New London #263
Victoria Gillett	Beaver Dam #146

Class VI

Traigh Bowlin	Menomonee Falls #382
Abigail Okon	Berlin #340
Israe Sanchez	Shiocton #512

2026 9-PIN TAP BOWLING TOURNAMENT RESULTS

(top 3 places in each category)



Team:

1st	(2687) Bonduel Gals, Unit 217 Bonduel
2nd	(2367) Betty's Foxy Bowlers, Unit 437 Mazomanie
3rd	(2243) Curts Girls, Unit 385 Verona

Doubles:

1st	(1283) Heather Gebauer/Toni Moegenburg, Unit 355 Grafton
2nd	(1272) Irene Klatt/Kathryn Machovec, Unit 13 Richland Center
3rd	(1265) Pollyanna Johns/Laura Thompson, Unit 187 Wisconsin Dells

Singles:

1st	(731) Laura Thompson, Unit 187 Wisconsin Dells
2nd	(685) Deb Wipperfurth, Unit 385 Verona
3rd	(652) Toni Moegenburg, Unit 355 Grafton

All Events:

1st	(2132) Laura Thompson, Unit 187 Wisconsin Dells
2nd	(1968) Debi Wipperfuth, Unit 385 Verona
3rd	(1948) Kathryn Leeman, Unit 217 Bonduel

UNIT 243: POPPY PRINCESS



ALA 243 Junior member Piper Koran recently welcomed home deserving veterans from Washington, DC on the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight. Her mother Angela served in Iraq in the Army and father Scosh is currently serving in the Coast Guard. Piper works at the unit's GI Breakfasts, participates in the Legion's Shooting Sports program, and supports various community projects.

District 1 – Year in Review



Crystal Shaw
1st District
President

First District embraced Department President Sue Hembrook's ideal of "Legion Family" and District President Crystal Shaw's two-year theme, "May Your Journey Always Lead You Home," by strengthening connections throughout the district and supporting one another in meaningful ways.

Units across the district grew closer to their Posts, Squadrons, and Riders, working together to recruit members, host events, and support fundraisers. Many units that experienced significant growth this year did so because they focused on the mission of the American Legion and Auxiliary while building relationships rather than simply focusing on numbers. Members formed stronger friendships through coffee meetups, camping weekends, hikes, and increased participation in each other's events and activities.

The district also continued to support leadership development by hosting its 3rd Annual End-of-Year Reports Workshop, created and led by District President Crystal Shaw. The workshop received excellent feedback and helped unit members and officers better understand the reporting process, resulting in more detailed impact reports. District leadership worked together as a team to assist, meet-up, and encourage all units during the process.

Two major district-wide events highlighted the spirit of the Legion Family this year. The First District American Legion POW/MIA March brought together our Auxiliary officers and members from across the Legion Family in a powerful silent march honoring those still unaccounted for. The district also hosted a bowling fundraiser for Badger Youth Camp, where members collaborated through planning meetings and teamwork to create a successful and enjoyable event for a meaningful cause.

Through friendship, teamwork, and service, First District truly demonstrated that when the Legion Family works together, every journey leads home.

District 4 – Year in Review



Pat Ehleiter
4th District
President

My first year as president has been eventful, productive, and a learning experience like no other. I got the chance to visit District 1's Spring Conference, the Four Chaplains Event, and my Unit 434 hosted the District 4 & 5 Joint Spring Conference in May. All of which were enjoyable and memorable.

This year our units participated in various memorable events and activities that centered around servicing our communities while honoring our veterans, military and their families. This year, our Poppy Princess Avery was selected as the state's Poppy Princess and was invited to attend the Honor Flight and welcome home our veterans.

District 4 raised over \$5,000 in poppy distributions for our veterans which is impressive – way to go! We volunteered about 800 hours and donated over \$2,000 to the ALA Badgers Girls State and other Legion Family youth activities. Unit members and members of the community attended flag disposal ceremonies and Memorial Day, Veterans Day honoring our Veteran of the Year, and 4th of July services along with the annual Bike Blessing.

Units honored our veterans by hosting Veterans' picnics and dinners. Some units crocheted and donated lap blankets and bags of necessities to our VA. We also participated in food drives, hosted craft fairs, spaghetti dinners, and pancake breakfasts throughout the district. Some members donated their time crocheting mittens that were given along with gifts donated by their Legion during the Breakfast with Santa. Auxiliary units and Legion posts held Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Trunk-or-Treat, both well attended family events.

It is events such as these that promote the idea of a cohesive Legion, SAL, Riders and Auxiliary Family. When we come together, we can accomplish amazing things that support and honor our veterans, active military, their families and our community.

District 2 – Year in Review



Kathy Olson
2nd District
President

Each of the County Councils in District 2 held spring and fall meetings providing units with a great way to showcase what they do to support our veterans.

Columbia County had a booth at the Columbia County Fair to let people know what we do and how to join. Money collected from the fair was donated to the Fisher House in Madison.

Dodge County received a grant which they used for donations to Legion Riders, Camp American Legion, Homeless Female Veterans, and Christmas Gift Shop.

Jefferson County units have been busy. At their spring County Council meeting, they approved a Facebook page so the units could share their upcoming events within the county and beyond.

Ozaukee County participated in the USA 250 Challenge by holding a food drive to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. All seven units within Ozaukee County also participated in a USO Baby Shower. In March, Ozaukee County also spearheaded the District 2 donation and put together 200 "goodie bags" for troops being deployed later that week.

Sheboygan County Council donated to Sons of the American Legion, Children Organ Transplant, Ya Ya's Group, County Veterans Service and Rocky Knoll. They also approved to hold a food collection project in honor of 250th Anniversary of the County.

Washington County units fundraised for various organizations, supported the Give 10 program for local schools and collected purses and personal products for female veterans.

At our spring conference, District 2 endorsed three candidates for 2026-2027 including: Maggie Geiger for National Central Division Vice President, Amy Luft for Department of Wisconsin President and Sandy Mack for Department Historian.

District 2 County Councils are a vital part of the organizational structure and help to ensure that communications are maintained throughout the units.

District 5 – Year in Review



Linda Bartell
5th District
President

It was another tough year for our district. We had two unit presidents pass away and no one wished to step up into that officer position. This made four units without Presidents out of six total units in Fifth District. But we had some positives this last year also:

Unit 1 continued to make tray favors for all holidays and a knitting group that made lap robes, afghans and baby afghans for Zablocki VA. They recruited four new members, of which three of those members utilized their schools. St. Agnes in Butler and Beautiful Savior in Milwaukee, to participate in Service to Veterans. For each holiday, they signed or made sixty cards for the veterans at the Union Grove facility. Beautiful Savior, which only has 15 students totally, had a fundraiser of hygiene items and donated \$650 of such to Zablocki VA. Very impressive! Our new Junior member helped with a poppy distribution. Birthday cards are sent to all members of the unit.

Unit 331 still continues to celebrate all military birthdays (Army, Navy, etc.) with a poppy distribution and cake at the Brat House in Shorewood.

Unit 406 is in flux as their Post is disbanding due to no leadership. The Auxiliary paid all the members' dues for 2026 out of their finances so they can determine the path that they will take moving forward. They also donated \$2,000 to the Homeless Women Veterans Grant Fund, Christmas Gift Shop, Fisher House and Camp American Legion.

Unit 479, with help from Department Membership Chairman Christina Petranovich, had a meeting and discussed the value of each member. Whether they were active or inactive, they could choose the programs they wished to work going forward. They went into the meeting thinking they needed to disband as their President had passed away. They all went home hopeful as to their unit's future.

I am looking forward to the rest of this year.

District 3 – Year in Review



Shelley Drager
3rd District
President

The 3rd District had a very busy and productive year in all areas. I am very proud of this amazing group of volunteers.

Units worked with their posts on membership, recruiting for each other. Membership tables were set up throughout the district – at county fairs, car shows, and all sorts of community events. Units were seen "branding" – wearing our attire to inspire. Our membership shows all our efforts with 16 units 100% or above – amazingly awesome again this year and still going strong right till the end, the Fighting 3rd Way!

We also worked together on fundraising the family way – from brat fries and pop-up water stands for honor flight to a huge fundraising hit, Burgers in the Park. Some units do this monthly, others do a yearly event. This has been an amazing fundraiser for many and what a great way for community interaction. This year, one of the units pushed the fundraising bar above any I've seen for such a small, dedicated group. A Cabin Fever Reliever fundraiser garnered over \$50,000 for Vets Roll – simply amazing! We may start out small, but we gain speed and strength to succeed. This makes me so proud to be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

This year has found us being encouraged to try new things and join other organizations in the community. Working together makes us all better.

We closed out with our Spring Conference and wonderful speaker Raquel Durden; I suggest others sign her up to speak. Amazing author. Along with that, the district came together to raise funds for President Sue's special project, Camp American Legion. Together with our basket/pie raffle, and 50/50 drawing, we will donate \$900 to help Camp American Legion with renovations. Thank you.

District 6 – Year in Review



Diane Steinert
6th District
President

By working the ALA programs, the units of District 6 continue to "Honor Our Country and Support Our Veterans."

The 2025 Department Convention was held in Green Bay, where several of our units received well-deserved recognition. Montello Unit 351 received the Heart of the ALA Award. Neenah Unit 33 earned a Certificate of Recognition for Americanism, a Certificate of Recognition for Children & Youth, a "Give 10 to Education" certificate, and the award for Most Outstanding Unit Poppy Program. St. Cloud Unit 478 was awarded a certificate for Legislative Advocacy in Education.

Char Kiesling received the Past Presidents Parley – Mentor of the Year award for her many years of dedicated service to the Department Junior Activities Program. Additionally, the 2024-2025 Junior Unit of the Year Award was presented to Unit 33, Neenah (Vicki Hanson, Jr. Activities Chair). Congratulations to all!

Neenah Unit 33 hosted our District Fall Conference with many units represented. A key component was a presentation from Deputy Director Lydia Wilz from the Winnebago County Veterans Service Office on "Pension/Surviving Spouse Pension." We also had a great turnout for our District Spring Conference, hosted by Montello Unit 351. Thanks to both units for putting everything together. Reports were given by District Chairmen, and county and unit representatives. It is always nice to hear what everyone has been doing during the year.

Our units were tireless in their service. From hosting parties for veterans and participating in Poppy Days to coordinating fundraisers, marching in parades, and sponsoring candidates for ALA Badger Girls State, your impact was felt everywhere. Whether through school programs or Veterans Day activities, our members serve as the pillars of their communities.

Our units have proven quite successful in retaining and recruiting members. As of this writing, eleven units and one county have already reached or exceeded 100% of their membership goals. Great job, everyone!

Thank you for the invitations to unit and county meetings, special events, and installations of officers. Your dedication to our mission is truly appreciated. I look forward to another incredible year of service as your District President.

District 7 – Year in Review



Jesse Elmhurst
7th District
President

District 7 continues to erupt with positive impact! The District 7 Auxiliary has been hard at work strengthening and growing our American Legion Family. One of our biggest focuses this year has been bringing our organizations together through joint district conferences with The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, and American Legion Riders. Working together as one family has created stronger connections, greater teamwork,

and larger opportunities to serve our veterans and communities.

One exciting joint effort currently underway is fundraising for the Freedom Honor Flight program, which is located within our district and is in need of continued financial support. Freedom Honor Flight provides veterans with the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials built in their honor, creating meaningful and unforgettable experiences for those who have served our nation. District 7 has set a big goal — raising enough funds as an American Legion Family to sponsor an entire Honor Flight plane.

In addition to these district-wide efforts, our individual units continue making a difference through many outstanding projects and programs. Activities throughout the district include Memorial Wreath Toss ceremonies, Poppy Day events, Feed My People projects, and numerous donations supporting the Tomah VA Medical Center. District 7 has also proudly contributed to Camp American Legion in honor of Department President Sue's special project.

Membership growth and celebrating America's upcoming 250th Birthday have also remained priorities throughout the District. As part of Department President Sue's theme, District 7 was assigned Hawaii Volcanoes National Park — and District 7 has truly been erupting with positive energy, dedication, and impact across our communities.

I am incredibly proud of all our members and everything being accomplished throughout District 7. Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication. Keep up the great work!

District 10 – Year in Review



Teresa Steinke
10th District
President

Ours is a volunteer organization, but here in the Tenth District, we accomplish some very mighty goals. As I read every impact report, I was amazed and impressed by the dedication shown by every member in our district!

We spent time and resources to improve the lives of our veterans, our active-duty military, and their families. Collectively, the Tenth District units gave more than 28,850 hours of their time, and over \$46,000 to assist approximately 4,000 veterans, active-duty military and their families. We encouraged 30 junior girls to explore our form of government by sending them on a one-week adventure called ALA Badger Girls State, investing more than \$15,000 and volunteering over 770 hours to make sure they have a great experience while they are there. We had poppy drives in which we distributed more than 18,200 poppies and collected donations that topped more than \$42,000. We spent \$16,000 helping nearly 1,000 children throughout our Tenth District. We dedicated over 21,600 hours and more than \$20,500 through our service in our communities. Our units know the importance of a higher education and the high cost of that education, so 31 scholarships were awarded locally by our units, totaling over \$12,000! Additionally, our dedicated volunteers drove more than 61,500 miles to do these things.

I am so proud of the efforts that our units, from the smallest to the largest, have given to carry out the mission and the vision of the American Legion Auxiliary. I think every member should be proud of everything that is done every day to advocate on behalf of our veterans and military, and to enhance the lives of those veterans, their families and our communities as we all carry out the mission of our amazing organization.

District 8 – Year in Review



Kay Grosskopf
8th District
President

In conjunction with District 8 Commander Penny Peeters, we hosted the 8th District Fall Conference at Grand Army Home at King. Mary Dulske, King volunteer coordinator, spoke to the group about the many and diversified volunteer opportunities at King. That was followed by a brainstorming session based on President Sue's theme for the year. After lunch, there was time to walk to see Brownie, the War Dog statue that is located outside of the Commandants house. The house was open for tours on the main floor only. This beautiful house is under renovation and repairs. Lastly, we joined with the Legion to hear Kelly Nelson, author of Brownie, the War Dog speak about writing the book and the research that went into it.

Our Spring Meeting was in Fremont and took a different format this year. The start time was moved up to 8:30 with the goal of completing by 12:00-12:30 pm. It was business only, no speakers. After the program chair reports and memorial service, units gave a two-minute report on one to three activities. Because of the change in format, a survey showed most were in favor of the business only, half day format. We will plan on seeing more members attend next year with this change. Units are active and working many programs in the ALA.

Unfortunately, Eighth District is in 11th place for membership. We are working to rejuvenate several units and improving that number. We have six units at or above 100%. I plan to visit many more units this coming year.

Eighth District is committed to our veterans and military. We donate time and drove almost 39,000 miles to accomplish our mission. We encourage all units to work together with their posts and squadrons to present us as the American Legion Family.

District 11 – Year in Review



Theresa Schindler
11th District
President

As we celebrate the 250th birthday of the USA, President Sue Hembrook asked each district to focus on one of our country's beautiful national parks while working the ALA mission with her theme, "**Honor our Country – Support our Veterans.**" Eleventh District chose the Redwood National Park. "Hiking" among the giant redwood trees inspired members to reach out and up in service to our veterans and military, and to honor our great nation.

District Eleven held on to second place in membership consistently throughout the year. 451 Boulder Junction, 532 Fifield, 362 Kennan, 464 Land O'Lakes, 547 Lublin, 424 Mercer, 25 Odanah, 182 Park Falls, and 274 Rib Lake went over the top of the tall redwood trees with 100% membership or higher. Unit 464 Land O Lakes led the way by achieving 188% membership!

Park Falls Unit 182 hosted the District Fall Conference. Second VP Betty Stone delivered an inspiring message on behalf of President Sue. The district donated funds to Camp American Legion, the Homeless Female Veterans fund, ALA Badger Girls State, and the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Reports were delivered with encouragement to use the department website program links, especially for annual reports. Unit leaders reported on events and activities in their respective communities. Awards and games were enjoyed throughout the conference.

Spring Conference was hosted by Three Lakes Unit 431. Elections were held for 2026-2028 district officers. Director Corey Doehrmann of the American Legion Riders spoke about the 'Family First-26' Cruise for a Cause. A donation was made toward this worthy Riders event. President Sue Hembrook's enthusiasm led to another generous donation for Camp American Legion to "**Support our Veterans.**" Linda Tryczak spoke about the Community Service program and gifted everyone with a booklet of our nation's founding documents as we "**Honor our Country.**" The day was sprinkled with good food, raffles, friendships, awards, games, and an American Legion Family memorial service for our deceased members.

This district continues the ALA mission as poppies are being distributed and warmer temperatures take us outside to "Honor our Country and Support our Veterans." Thank you for the privilege of serving as Eleventh District President. Let's meet at the Department Convention in July and celebrate America's 250th birthday together.

District 9 – Year in Review



Sue Keyzers
9th District
President

As I finish up my tenure as President of the Noble Ninth District, I would like to thank the units for their hard work and willingness to go the extra step for veterans and their families and their communities. This year we had both a Fall and Spring conference. The Spring Conference was a joint conference between the Legion and the Auxiliary. It worked out very well as The Woods in Green Bay was big enough for both organizations to have a room to themselves plus space to eat together.

A good time was had by all.

Members started out the year distributing over 15,750 poppies and raised over \$30,000 to help support veterans and their families. They donated funds to VA hospitals, King, Camp American Legion and many more general funds. Several members even volunteered at Camp American Legion for a week and had a great time.

Our members marched in parades from Athelstane/Silver Cliff to Washington Island. They worked with other organizations on fundraisers. They worked at fish boils, county fairs, golf outings and many other events. With the funds they raised, they sponsored about 30 girls to ALABGS and collected school supplies to help students have a good start to the school year. They worked in school closets to provide clothing for students and provided treats for teachers and staff during Teacher's Appreciation Week.

This year, President Sue named each district with a park name.

9th District is

Glacier National Park. Like the park, our district has weathered its up and downs. One of our best successes is Unit 94 in Crandon. They have more than doubled their membership and helped the Senior Lunch program in their area. Every Tuesday from January through March they made and served lunch. They served over 325 meals and have been true to our mission.



District 12 – Year in Review



Barb McDaniel
12th District
President

The 12th District really takes to heart the spirit of Service, not Self. We may be small units in numbers, but big in our activities. The evidence of our reports from the fourteen units reporting show impressive figures of support for our veterans and military, families and Children & Youth.

Poppies are again this year's favorite activity. Several units also sponsored breakfasts, lunches, raffles – in fact, if an activity could help our veterans and military families, a unit was participating. Two units stand out with their reports of activities and participation. Unit 218 from Hayward participated in the Veterans History Project by interviewing veterans Gary Connor, Jeff Clapero and Barry Gobler for the Library of Congress. Unit 487 from Cable holds an annual community garage sale for three consecutive weekends. They also do Wreaths Across America for all veterans in all the local cemeteries.

Children & Youth programs are well served by units reporting 40 ALA Badger Girls State and 673 youth served with over \$8,000 spent. Communities benefited by the various units sponsoring Easter egg hunts, summer picnics, assisting posts with military honors at flag presentations and cemeteries, 4th of July parades, public events such as Lumberjack World Championships, and town celebrations.

Membership is low in all units. Fortunately, the district didn't lose any units and re-chartered Unit 221 in Osceola, returning with a membership of 150%. Welcome aboard! The district also has eight units at 100% or more, six units at 90% or more, and three units at 80% or more. Bravo Zulu, District 12.



Nathan Bond
Department
Commander

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

As my year as Department Commander comes to a close, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the honor of serving you and our great organization.

Over the past year, I have witnessed the absolute best of our Legion Family: Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders working together to support our fellow veterans, strengthen our communities, and uphold the values to which we all swore allegiance. From Post meetings and District Conferences to honor guards, charity rides, youth programs, and veteran outreach, your dedication has been the driving force behind every success we have shared.

Thank you to our Post, County, and District officers whose leadership at the local level is the backbone of our mission. Thank you to

our Legion Family members who quietly give their time, talent, and heart—often without recognition, but never without impact. And thank you to my fellow Department officers and staff for your guidance, patience, and teamwork throughout this journey.

We have faced challenges together and celebrated achievements together, always with a shared purpose: to serve veterans, their families, and our communities, our state, and our nation. I am proud of what we have accomplished and confident that the Wisconsin American Legion Family will continue to grow, adapt, and lead with integrity and compassion as our Legacy goes FORWARD.

It has been an immense privilege to serve as your Commander. I will carry the lessons, friendships, and memories of this year with me always.

For God and Country!



Sue Hembrook
Department
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is so unbelievable that this presidency year has almost come to a close. Through your support a lot was accomplished. The Department of Wisconsin is amazing and the support given to the new adventure of on-line reporting was admirable. Hopefully, next year more units will use this process with the help of those who used it this year. Mentoring is the key with any new idea, so please mentor the next person in line. Sharing ideas and helping one another is the sure proof way of accomplishing mountains.

Commander Nathan Bond, Commander Chris Dannenmann, Director Corey Doehrmann, and I truly worked together to support our Department. The Camp American Legion Project was embraced by the entire family. The Riders led the way with their Fall Ride and set the tone. A large storage shed to protect a lot of the equipment is soon to be a reality due to your generosity. Camp is 101 years old this spring and we need to protect its legacy. It is our own gem, so please keep up the donations.

Funding our programs is an essential need. Our programs must be our main focus! While projects outside our Legion Family are extremely important, we must all remember that our projects are equally as vital and need our support. If we do not support what we have in place, they may not be around as our membership continues to decline.

There are many veterans and their families who are potential members. We must do our best to demonstrate how vital we are to our communities, veterans and active-duty military, and their families. Get out in your communities and be branded! It is amazing what a conversation starter your branded clothing can stir up. Let us each make a commitment to reach out to someone to let them know how we matter and ask them if they too are eligible to join.

Honor our Country, Support our Veterans! This was the theme this year as our country celebrates 250 years on July 4th and the ideals that were fought for by our veterans throughout the years. Let us all stand proud that we are fulfilling the promise of this theme. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for embracing this ideal.



Christopher Dannenmann
SAL Detachment
Commander

SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

“Well done is better than well said.”

– Benjamin Franklin

The Detachment of Wisconsin has done the hard work these past 10 months and done it well. Let's take pride in our dedication and contribution. With the state convention just months away, please make sure your CSR's are sent in to recognize what your Squadron has accomplished in support of the American Legion Family.

Our ALF Dog program is pressing forward into the summer months with renewed enthusiasm. Alf will be taking to the road to join the Cruise For A Cause. He'll do his part by meeting new friends around our great state. He is even going to Louisville for the National Convention. But...this dog is hungry for donations needed to continue the work of this vital program and the difference it makes in the lives of the loved ones of those deployed.

Flag Day is right around the corner. There's no better time to go out and support your community and show them what you do as Sons of The American Legion. Let them know who you are as you hand them the Flag Code of the United States of America and ask them if they are eligible to join The American Legion Family. This is a great opportunity to boost membership.

What are you doing July 17-19 this year? Hopefully, attending the convention at the Hilton Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. We'd love to see you there. Come and learn what your Detachment is doing, what we have planned for the near future and elect your new Officers. Engage yourselves in the leadership learning, fun and camaraderie that is convention.

As we stand ready to welcome so many more New Squadrons in the coming months, we all have much more to do to keep our SONS strong and strengthen the four pillars of The American Legion. Thank you for being a part of it all.

Where there is a need, there is a SON.



Corey Doehrmann
State Director
American Legion
Riders Association

LEGION RIDERS DIRECTOR

Who else is ready for the warmer temperatures. We've had a few teases but I'm ready for steady warm riding weather!

I had the opportunity recently to attend some of the Department Spring meetings in Portage. The chance to hear what each of the committees are working on to make the lives of our fellow veterans and the communities we live in is great.

One of the meetings I was able to sit in on was the Finance Committee. Many thanks to all the work this committee and the Foundation Board have done to make sense of what they started with and put our organization in a much better position. As a recovering bean counter (former Accountant) I know firsthand the level of dedication that is required to understand things when you are picking up the pieces. I was very pleased to hear that every packet at this year's Department Convention will include a finance report so that members can also understand the position.



Our organization needs your help! We are currently in a budget shortfall, and we all need to step up and help. There are many ways to do so. You or your post could support one of the many programs



directly by sending in a donation and notating what you want it designated toward. One option that was discussed is the Sponsor a Veteran at Camp American Legion for \$500 (see QR code attached). This is a great way to contribute directly to the work of Camp and enable a veteran to experience the healing work that they provide. Your Wisconsin Legion Riders are leading the way by voting at our meeting on May 9 to sponsor 3 veterans.

The Wisconsin Legion Riders – Cruise for a Cause, 'Family First – 26' will be happening June 26-28. Follow our website (<http://www.alrawis.org/C4C/index.html>) and Facebook page (American Legion Riders Wisconsin) for all the updates. We would love to see you at one of our stops or as we travel through your community. Again, this year we'll be using Spotwalla so you can follow our progress in real time. It updates every 5 minutes while we are traveling.

If you have any questions about the Wisconsin Legion Riders don't hesitate to contact me: Corey Doehrmann/State Director, cell 262-305-0305 or email at alrawi.director@gmail.com. Our next meeting/event after the publication of this will be at 12 p.m. on July 25 at Anchor Bay Bar & Grill in Wisconsin Rapids.

Veterans Crisis Line  

DIAL 988
then **PRESS 1**



County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin

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