



NATIONAL SECURITY DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Karen Degner, Department Chairman
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2022-2023 Program Action Plan

Purpose: To maintain and promote a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families.

Objective: Develop, implement and monitor programs and activities that contribute to the practical and emotional well-being of military service members and their families.

Action Steps:

1. Participate in Department of Defense and other outside programs that support our military and their families throughout the entire deployment cycle.
 - a. Military Family Assistance Centers – Provide needed support to military members and military families. Call 1-800-292-9464 Option 1 with your Unit contact information and type of support you wish to offer.
 - b. USO – www.uso.org Provide comfort items to USO locations in Wisconsin
 - c. Soldier & Family Readiness Groups—Contact Reserve or National Guard groups or Military Family Assistance Centers with offers to support the FRG.
 - d. Suicide Awareness and Prevention - Learn the steps that Auxiliary members, military, veterans and their family members and friends can follow to take an active role in suicide prevention.
2. Participate in Military and Family Support Programs of The American Legion -- www.legion.org
 - a. Military Family Appreciation Month-November 2022, Military Appreciation Month-May 2023 – Celebrate the sacrifices and service of military families and service members.
 - b. Gold Star Banner and Blue Star Banner Programs—Displayed by families with a loved one serving (blue) or killed in combat (gold).
3. Support implementation of homeland security programs of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary— www.legion.org and www.alaforveterans.org
 - a. CERT Training—first aid, CPR, emergency skills
 - b. Keep our communities safe - See Something Say Something – <http://ready.wi.gov/SeeSay>
 - c. Emergency Preparedness – <http://ready.wi.gov>
4. POW/MIA Initiatives
 - a. Follow the Legion’s POW/MIA Empty Chair Resolution 288 for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings.
 - b. Participate in POW/MIA Recognition day
 - c. Host a remembrance event for any MIA servicemembers who have been identified from your area.

5. Caregiver Support

The life of a caregiver — whether for a spouse, parent, child, friend, or anyone — is hard.

- Offer to spend time with the person they are caring for so the caregiver can rest, run errands, go out to dinner, etc.
- Make a meal for the caregiver.
- Send the caregiver cards and/or letters to read, sharing that what they do matters.
- Offer to do household chores like laundry or yardwork.
- Purchase gift cards for things like massages, manicures, haircuts, etc.

Visit www.legion-aux.org under member resources for more information, suggestions and ways to help caregivers.

6. Service Member of the Year

- Must be currently serving in the U.S. armed forces.
- Must submit a narrative of 750 words or less on the topic specified in the application.
 - The application can be found on the National ALA website:
www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers-Award-Form
- Membership in the Auxiliary is desired, but not required.
- Each American Legion Auxiliary unit may submit one entry for each branch of service.

What can you do?

You can contact the Military Family Assistance Centers with a Point of Contact (POC) for your Unit, County or District to be listed as a resource to provide support to military members and their families to assist in meeting their needs. Support the FRG's, by becoming a volunteer, providing refreshments or child and youth activities.

Refer service members and their families in need to Military Family Assistance Centers for any type of assistance.

Offer a Suicide Awareness and Prevention course provided by the VA or Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP) program.

Provide needed items to the USO of Wisconsin locations to lift the spirits of our troops and family members.

Donate unused hotel points or airline miles to the Fisher House of WI. Provide a meal or needed items to Fisher House of Wisconsin.

Partner with Wisconsin National Guard Service Member Support Division to provide volunteers, refreshments or child and youth activities.

Participate in the National Military Family Month and Military Appreciation Month, provide Blue Star or Gold Star Banners to eligible military family members.

Prepare and train for emergencies – complete a CERT course, if you See Something, Say Something to law enforcement, have an emergency plan and a “Go Bag”, practice your plan at home.

Follow the Legion's POW/MIA Empty Chair Resolution and have a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings.

National Security Reporting

Mid-Year Reports (Optional):

Although Mid-Year reports are optional this year, I would love to hear what you have done by **December 15, 2022** to the Department Chairman, Karen Degner, 914 Dreifuerst Road, Plymouth WI 53073 or kdegner88@gmail.com.

Year-End Reports:

Annual reports reflect the unit and members' National Security work for the year. Each Unit National Security Chairman is required to submit a narrative report due by **April 15, 2023**, to the Department Chairman, Karen Degner, 914 Dreifuerst Road, Plymouth WI 53073 or kdegner88@gmail.com.

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Just three simple steps to add your part to our national success story.

National Security Awards

A. Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit National Security Program

Award: Citation

Presented to: One unit in each division (5)

Materials and guidelines:

- Entries must include the award cover sheet
- Entries must be typewritten in narrative form
- Include pictures and newspaper articles
- Pictures and articles to be included must be received by May 1, 2023 or email by 5:00 pm
- Mail to Karen Degner, Department Chairman, 914 Dreifuerst Road, Plymouth WI 53073, or email: kdegner88@gmail.com.

B. Department Award: Dorothy Pearl Best Department National Security Program

Award: Citation Plaque

Presented to: One department in each division (5)

Materials and guidelines:

- Entries must include the award cover sheet
- Each entry must be typewritten in narrative form.
- Include pictures and newspaper articles.
- Entries must be received by May 1, 2023 or email by 5:00 pm
- Mail to Karen Degner, Department Chairman, 914 Dreifuerst Road, Plymouth WI 53073, or email: kdegner88@gmail.com.

C. Department Award: Military Spouse Mentor

Note: This award is related to AcademyWomen's eMentoring program.

Award: Citation Plaque

Presented to: One department

- For the department having the highest percentage of members actively participating in military spouse eMentoring and connected to military spouses

Materials and guidelines:

- Entries must include the award cover sheet
- Entries must have a list/spreadsheet of participating members and be received by May 1, 2023 or email by 5:00 pm
- Mail to Karen Degner, Department Chairman, 914 Dreifuerst Road, Plymouth WI 53073, or email: kdegner88@gmail.com.

- Each department's participation percentage will be determined by the national chairman. The percentage will be calculated based on the number of reported participating members who are serving as an eMentor, as reported by the eMentoring program staff, divided by the department's membership total as of June of the current administrative year. (For example, if 250 of the 300 members listed on the department's submitted spreadsheet were connected to military spouses, in a department with 5,000 members, the percentage would be 5 percent).

National Chairman

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Central Division Chairman

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National Security Committee contact information

nationalsecurity@ALAforVeterans.org



American Legion Auxiliary 2022-2023 National Award Cover Sheet

Send completed form to:

National Security Chairman Karen Degner, 914 Dreifuerst Road, Plymouth WI 53073

This cover sheet should be attached to each narrative submitted for a national award. Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible.

Award certificates will be completed using the information given on this sheet, so please write carefully. All awards will be mailed to the department office after national convention. Department presidents may wish to recognize award recipients by presenting them at a department function.

National committee sponsoring award: NATIONAL SECURITY

Type of Award: Department Unit Member

Name of the award you are applying for: _____

Complete the following if you are applying for a department award:

Name of department: _____

Name of department chairman: _____

Chairman's phone number: (_____) _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Chairman's email address: _____

Please complete the following if you are applying for a unit award. Be sure to give the complete name of your unit. The award certificate will be prepared using the information you include below.

Unit #: _____ Full official unit name: _____

Unit president/chairman (circle one) name: _____

Phone number: (_____) _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Email address: _____

Please complete the following if you are applying for a member award. Be sure to give the complete name of the member. The award certificate will be prepared using the information you include below.

Unit #: _____ Full official unit name: _____

Member Name: _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Nominating Member (if different from above): _____

Nominator's Phone number: (_____) _____

Nominator's Email address: _____



SALUTE TO SERVICEMEMBERS

AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Established in 2003, this award has evolved from honoring women veterans to honoring active-duty women to honoring all enlisted personnel who are currently serving our country in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, and the National Guard/Reserve.

One enlisted servicemember from each branch of service as well as the National Guard/Reserve will be recognized at the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention. Recipients will attend the National Convention as guests of the Auxiliary.

Nomination Eligibility

- A servicemember currently serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Nomination Requirements:

- The nominating person submits a narrative discussing the reason for the nomination
- The servicemember writes a narrative (750 words or less) and creates a video (3 minutes or less) that shows them discussing their service both in and out of uniform.
- The servicemember must be willing to be a guest of the Auxiliary and speak to the general assembly of the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention.
- Endorsement from a member of their command group must be included.
- The nominating form, along with all supporting documentation, must be completed and submitted by June 1, 2023.

YouTube Checklist for Servicemember

Criteria for video submission; please be sure that your video contains:

- does not contain any copyrighted music, video, images, or text (not legally owned)
- is not set to "private;" your video must be public.
- is 3 minutes or less in length

Online Application can be accessed: www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers-Award-Form

Name of person making this nomination, if not the nominee:

First Name

Last Name

Email of person making this nomination, if not the nominee:

Phone Number of person making this nomination, if not the nominee:

Unit number and department of nominating ALA unit *

Servicemember's Name: *

First Name

Last Name

Servicemember's Email: *

Servicemember's Phone Number: *

Servicemember's Branch of Service: *

U.S. Coast Guard U.S. Air Force U.S. Army U.S. Navy U.S. Marines U.S. Space Force U.S. National Guard/Reserve

Servicemember's Rank/Pay Grade: *

Is the servicemember able to attend ALA National Convention?

YES NO

Is the servicemember comfortable with public speaking?

YES NO

Written narrative of nomination. *

No File Chosen

Written narrative from servicemember. *

No File Chosen

Video: Copy and paste URL of video link. *

Endorsement from a member of their command group. Please attach a separate document. *

No File Chosen

