



# WISCONSIN



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

www.amlegionauxwi.org

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**LAUREL DuBOIS**  
Department  
President

I am honored to have been elected your President for the 2016-2017 year. Thank you for placing your trust in me as we "Soar For Our Veterans." I am looking forward to a great year of travel and visiting with you and your units. Congratulations to Dan Seehafer on his election as Department Commander. I am looking forward to our working together. I am sure it will be a hoot! Congratulations to Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander Mike Kollmansberger on his re-election. The Sons play an integral role in

spreading the word and helping the American Legion Family with our programs.

As the first Wisconsin Auxiliary President to be a Legion Rider, I promise to work closely with Legion Rider Commander Ray McSherry to promote the American Legion Family. We know the Riders are a vibrant, enthusiastic, and growing part of the Family. Enthusiasm is contagious and I hope we can help spread it throughout the organization.

My special project this year is the Veterans Creative Arts Festival. I love this program because there is so much talent in our veterans. The Veterans Creative Arts Festival showcases the very best from around our state and nation. Every dollar raised will go

into helping promote the artistic and therapeutic expression many of our veterans need to help heal their physical and psychological wounds.



My pin comes from my Father who was a WWII paratrooper. He was a member of the 101st Airborne "Screaming Eagles" that dropped into Germany on D-Day and he fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was the strong protector of our family. I relate the eagle with majestic power. Like the mother eagle, we provide and nurture our young, protect the nest, and care for our families. These are the same proud traditions of the American Legion Auxiliary. Like many families, it is often the strong woman who binds the family together just as our mission statement emphasizes "to honor the sacrifices of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad."

This year we are trying something NEW. We are holding six Fall conferences called "ALA in the Know." They started September 10th at Camp American Legion, September 17th at Seymour, September 24th in Grafton, October 1st at Stevens Point, October 8th in Hayward and October 15th in Richland Center. This will be a great time to rekindle friendships, make new friends, and get reinvigorated about our great organization. As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."

The number one reason people have not joined our great organization is no one has asked them. Remember... JUST SAY HELLO.

## MEMBERSHIP

**Char Kiesling**  
Department Chairman  
charbabyrn@yahoo.com  
920-725-0121

Here we go into a new membership year with our newly elected Department President Laurel DuBois and her theme, SOAR FOR OUR VETERANS! I am excited to be your 2016-2017 Membership Chairman and especially look forward to meeting and working with all of the District and Unit Presidents and fellow membership chairmen throughout this proud department!

Eagles will be soaring high, achieving attainable goals if we work at getting one new member and one renewal at a time. If we jump out of the safety of our "nests" and then gain courage to soar to new heights, we will achieve our personal goals.

Members, you must make membership personal and a learning experience: reflect on your knowledge of the American Legion Auxiliary and your passion for veter-

ans, our active military and their families.

Let's look at the characteristics of an eagle and how they relate to membership: Eagles have VISION, eyes specially designed for long distance focus and clarity. A big and focused vision will produce big results.

Eagles are FEARLESS. Eagles will fight to win and gain their goal. Successful members are fearless and face obstacles head on.

Eagles are TENACIOUS. The life of our organization presents many challenges but we, like the eagle, instinctively protect what is ours and love and cherish our ALA. We can't fly away from these challenges.

Our eagle is a HIGH FLYER and looks for opportunities to dive down on unsuspecting recruits!

Lastly, eagles possess VITALITY. Eagles are full of life and are known to be aggressive but also nurture their young like no other bird. Junior members are not only our future but they bring energy,

smiles to our faces, and hope to our units.

We already have these qualities in many of our members. As your chairman, I'm asking you to continue to share these qualities with those who are hesitant to fly. Your mentoring is STRENGTH, another characteristic of our eagle.

Eagles can fly up to an altitude of 10,000 feet. Our membership goals may seem that high but you are never alone! We will do this TOGETHER! Laurel's membership team includes outstanding members and friends: Donna Wilhelms, 6th District; Maggie Geiger, 2nd District; and my 14-year old granddaughter Hannah Borree will be working with our Junior members.

Nationally, we will continue to strive for one million members by our centennial celebration during the 2019-2020 year. The plan for 2017 is to focus on enhancing the member experience and not on the numbers. We will "RAISE and PRAISE" our members for

their results, ideas, and mentoring the program. National President Mary Davis will be looking at the increase in percentages this year but also looking for quality over quantity. We need to improve the membership experience by making "MEMBERSHIP MEANINGFUL." Rather than focusing on numbers and target dates, National will be looking at department improvements compared to last year rather than percentage of numeric goal.

We all know that membership is not easy but essential! Anything worth achieving is worth the work it takes to keep our eagles flying high with keen eyesight and a tenacious, never-give-up attitude!

**2017 Department Membership Team**  
Donna Wilhelms,  
dmjawilhelms@gmail.com  
Maggie Geiger, gto54@execp.com  
Hannah Borree, Junior Member  
Andrea Stoltz, Headquarters Staff



**Diane Duscheck**  
Candidate for National Vice President



**Diane Duscheck** addressed the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention in Cincinnati as she accepted the nomination for National Vice President.

## KEEP MEMBERSHIP SOARING • AUGUST 2016 4.88%

**DISTRICT 6**  
1.57%

**DISTRICT 7**  
3.62%

**DISTRICT 3**  
4.53%

**DISTRICT 12**  
5.69%

**DISTRICT 9**  
6.35%

**DISTRICT 5**  
28.87%

**DISTRICT 11**  
.85%

**DISTRICT 10**  
3.56%

**DISTRICT 8**  
4.53%

**DISTRICT 4**  
5.39%

**DISTRICT 1**  
5.70%

**DISTRICT 2**  
7.62%



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

**Linda Coppock**  
 Department Chaplain/Music Chairman  
 PH: 920-982-5811  
 E-mail: [beatrice2554@gmail.com](mailto:beatrice2554@gmail.com)

*"Those who hope in the Lord will soar on wings like eagles." Isaiah 40:31*

I thought this would be fitting to begin my year with President Laurel DuBois as her theme is "Soar for our Veterans."

I am humbled and want to thank all members who elected me to be your Department Chaplain. I am still praying the Lord guides me through this year as he has guided those who have served so well before me! I'd also like to thank Diane Weggen for writing her last Chaplain's Corner one extra time. As I write this article, we are preparing to "Soar for our Veterans" to and from Cincinnati for the 2016 National Convention. I pray for safe travels, that we obtain additional knowledge to successfully carry on and share our programs, to network with others who may help us continue to successfully support and help our veterans, their families and our communities, and to continue to be of service to all for God and Country.

Dear Lord, as we embark on a new year, please help us to remain faithful to our veterans, their families and the work we do for others. Help us to share with others our strengths and ask for help in our weaknesses. Remind us daily, as we work together, our goal is to "Soar for our Veterans." In your name we pray. Amen.

### MUSIC: September is Music Month

#### On Eagle's Wings

V1: You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
 Who abide in his shadow for life,  
 Say to the Lord: "My refuge,  
 My rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain: And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
 Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
 Make you to shine like the sun,  
 And hold you in the palm of his hand.

V2: The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
 And famine will bring you no fear,  
 Under his wings your refuge,  
 His faithfulness your shield. (Refrain)

V3: You need not fear the terror of the night,  
 Nor the arrow that flies by day;  
 Though thousands fall about you,  
 Near you it shall not come. (Refrain)

V4: For to his angels he's given a command  
 To guard you in all of your ways;  
 Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
 Lest you dash your foot against a stone.  
 (Refrain)

At this past Department Convention at Middleton, it was very moving to witness members of The American Legion Family all joining in song from the balconies of the Marriott! With a large American Flag hanging alongside a "Wisconsin" banner, we all sang the National Anthem and God Bless America. It was wonderful! Please remember to use patriotic songs at your Unit meetings as well!

## GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

**Bonnie Dorniak**  
 Executive Secretary/Treasurer  
 Ph: 608-745-0124  
 Email: [deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org](mailto:deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org)  
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With national convention behind us, it is time to welcome in the new American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) administrative year. Newly elected National President Mary Davis's vision for 2016-2017 is to "raise and praise" our members to enhance our organizational strength – not by just the numbers alone but by looking at the increase in membership percentages from last year to where we want to be and by praising our members to stay positive. One way we can accomplish this is by showing our PRIDE in the accomplishments of ALL our members no matter how small! P...Praise success, R...Raise awareness, I...Inspire others, D...Develop leadership, E...Enhance member strength!

We, as individual members of the Department of Wisconsin, should take pride in all we have accomplished. However, in keeping with President Laurel DuBois' theme, we should continue to 'Soar for Our Veterans' to attain even greater accomplishments. There is so much we can do through the American Legion Auxiliary programs. Continue to distribute poppies to raise money for our veterans and military in need; work with the schools to teach flag etiquette and Americanism to our young citizens; support your lo-

cal communities with food and blood drives; sponsor girls for American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State; donate to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund to help other members facing financial crisis from the recent tragedies caused by floods, fires and other natural disasters; contact your legislators to voice your opinion on veterans issues; vote in the state and national elections; and work with our Junior members and encourage them to stay actively involved when they reach the age of 18. Success in any of these programs will help us 'Soar for Our Veterans.'

If your unit does something unique to support the Auxiliary's mission, please send me pictures of the "mission in action" along with a brief article or description so I can highlight it in the Wisconsin. Send submissions to [deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org](mailto:deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org) within 60 days of the event, including a contact person's name, daytime phone and email address in case I need to clarify information. Your ideas may be of interest to others who would like to duplicate your work in their own community.

National Headquarters is mailing the 2017 Membership Renewal Notices next week. Don't be surprised if you receive a renewal notice even though you recently paid your dues. National pulled the mailing list in early August before many memberships were processed. If you have questions, please contact your unit membership chairman to

verify she forwarded your dues to Department for processing.

Members who wish to pay their 2017 dues online may do so with a debit or credit card. Simply go to [www.ALAFORVeterans.org](http://www.ALAFORVeterans.org), click on the "Members Only" tab, and create a log-in ID if you don't already have one. The pay dues option will be in the upper right portion of the screen. If you need assistance with creating a log-in ID, please contact the national organization's helpline at [alahq@alaforveterans.org](mailto:alahq@alaforveterans.org). Dues can only be accepted for the 2017 membership year. Payments for previous years' dues should be processed through the unit.

The 2017 Daily Sweepstakes was mailed two weeks ago. Contact Department Headquarters if you want additional entry forms – while supplies last. Only original entry forms will be accepted for the drawing. You could win more than once because winning entries are returned to the barrel after each drawing. Daily prizes are \$15, Sunday prizes are \$25, and there is a chance to win \$500 each month! The last day to enter is December 31, 2016. THANK YOU to everyone who has already responded. *Please remember: although a donation is not required to enter the sweepstakes, the money raised is used to support Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary programs so donations are greatly appreciated.* Official sweepstakes rules are posted on the department website.

## DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

**Diane Weggen, Department Historian**  
[dsweggen@centurytel.net](mailto:dsweggen@centurytel.net)  
 715-644-2668

### Historians Make Unit History Come Alive!

Most people enjoy looking at pictures and reading about what they and their families did in past years. A unit historian records interesting and/or significant events and unit achievements throughout the year.

The National American Legion Auxiliary History Committee recommends units have a committee of members assist with building the history of the unit to have a more comprehensive record. The historian's narrative is much enhanced with a scrapbook including pictures and news articles plus memorabilia for display at the unit meeting location or at the local library.

Learning about the unit through writing and photos of events with the people identified provides documentation for years to come. In addition to enjoyment, these records can be utilitarian: used to see what worked and to understand why something didn't work and what can be done about it.

Units are encouraged to record their history through the eyes of its members with

interviews. This is a great way to get junior members involved. Two or three members can become a team to gather information from long time members and especially any charter members of the unit.

Ask members to share their stories. These can be about a special project, a particular highlight during their membership, how many generations of their families have been members and why, and their experience in starting the unit if they are a charter member. The ALA History Committee writes, "When an organization's history is told through the eyes of its members, everyone learns a great deal more about who we are, what we do, and why we matter."

ALA's Strategic Plan Goal 5 of branding is in harmony with the History Committee's encouragement to units to become visible throughout the community and to let people know the ALA's history and contributions to the community, state, nation, and the world. Members are asked to talk about the history of their unit at community functions they attend.

In 2014, Oconto Falls Unit 302, under the leadership of Past President Ann Lotter and member Jody Wickman, designed a window

display downtown. Each month thereafter, Jody and Ann created displays that were attractive, interesting, and relevant by highlighting what the unit was doing and how they were working for veterans. They emphasized the work of The American Legion Family and the Auxiliary's programs and projects fulfilling the organization's mission of serving veterans, service members, and their families.

This fall the window has evolved into a county display featuring Abrams Unit 523, Gillett Unit 300, Lena Unit 342, Oconto Unit 74, Oconto Falls Unit 302, and Suring Unit 283. This window allows members and the community to familiarize themselves with the units' histories and accomplishments.

Now that the case for everyone assisting the historian with the history has been made, this historian needs help. The 2016-2017 Department of Wisconsin History will not only be about President Laurel, but also about units throughout the entire state. Email me about unit events, special happenings or stories of interest about members and veterans. Pictures and news articles received electronically will be greatly appreciated.

## NATIONAL SECURITY

**Karen Degner**  
[kdegner88@gmail.com](mailto:kdegner88@gmail.com)  
 920-918-9772

Have you heard of the "See Something, Say Something" campaign? It may be that you see someone taking an unusual interest, notes or pictures on a building, asking probing questions that strike you as odd. If you notice something out of the ordinary or something that is concerning to you – report it to your local law enforcement agency. By staying alert to what is happening around you, you can help keep yourself and your community safer. <https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something>

Do you have an emergency preparedness plan in place in the event of a fire or other natural disaster? Are you interested in CERT (Certified Emergency Response Teams) Training? For suggestions on having a "ready kit" or taking the CERT training, you can find a wealth of information at: <http://ready.wi.gov> or [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

Is your Unit looking for ideas and ways to support service members and military families? Do you want to help a military family in need, adopt a military family or send packages to deployed troops? Some ways you can accomplish this is to make a donation to the Department's Veterans & Family

Assistance Fund (#4444) listed on the Poppy Fund Suggested Donation Sheet. You can also go to the USO of Wisconsin website: [www.usowisconsin.org](http://www.usowisconsin.org) to provide requested comfort items for the USO locations in the state. There are USO locations overseas that accept care packages for troops to enjoy when they visit the USO for some relaxation time. You can find them at: [www.uso.org/centers/southwest-asia](http://www.uso.org/centers/southwest-asia). To sign up as a community partner, contact the Military Family Assistance Centers to help those with needs in your area or anywhere in the state or to help at their Family Day events.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or ideas.

# American Legion Auxiliary 2016 State Convention Citations

## President's Award for Excellence

*Laura Calteux, Department President*

- Goal 1 – Enhance Membership Strength – awarded to LaVon Pulvermacher of Lone Rock Unit 383, District 3.
- Goal 2 – Create an Internal Culture of Goodwill – awarded to Amy Luft of Grafton Unit 355, District 2.
- Goal 3 – Develop Leadership at all Levels – awarded to Frederic Unit 249, District 12.
- Goal 4 – Strengthen Departments and Units – awarded to Nancy Helms, 6th District President.
- Goal 5 – With the American Legion, Build Brand Loyalty – awarded to Cedarburg Unit 288, District 2.

## AEF – LaVon Schurman, Department Chairman

- Certificate of Recognition for Personal Donation of \$50.00 or more (2) awarded to LaRene Carpenter of Bagley Unit 482, District 3 & Janice Niemuth of Fremont Unit 391, District 8.
- Certificates of Recognition for Donations of \$300 (4) awarded to Tomahawk Unit 93, District 11; Waupun Unit 210, District 6; Saukville Unit 470, District 2; Lone Rock Unit 383, District 3; .
- Certificate of Recognition for Donation of \$327.91 awarded to Wisconsin Rapids Post 9, District 8

## Americanism – Char Kiesling, Dept. Chairman

- Certificate of Recognition of Most Outstanding Unit in Americanism Program (2) awarded to Carol Paul & Denise Jamrozy of Saukville Unit 470, District 2.

## Chaplain – Diane Weggen, Department Chaplain

- Unit Prayer Book – awarded to Judith Larscheld of Pulaski Unit 337, District 9; Irma Hanson of Chaseburg Unit 202, District 7; Patricia Lindsten of Oconto Falls Unit 302, District 9; Joan Kscinski of Delafield Unit 196, District 1.

## History –

*Joanie Dickerson, Department Historian*

- Certificate of Merit – awarded to Joanne Baier of Elmwood Unit 207, District 10
- Certificate of Participation (7) awarded to Yvonne Hill of District 10; Lilli Schwantes of Brookfield Unit 449, District 1; Mary Petrie of Watertown Unit 189, District 2; Patricia Katalinick of Chilton Unit 125, District 6; Donna Olkowski of Thorp Unit 118, District 7; Connie Peterson of Chaseburg Unit 202, District 7; Joanne Baier of Elmwood Unit 207, District 10

## Junior Activities – Lorrie Barber, Dept. Chairman

- Junior Member of the Year – awarded to Alexandra Raczek of Stevens Point Unit 6, District 8
- Junior Unit of the Year – awarded to Char Kiesling of Neenah Unit 33, District 6
- Joining our Juniors – awarded to Lynn Keen of Wausau Unit 10, District 8
- 'Bowling for Veterans' Certificate – awarded to Brianna, Tina, James and Meghan of Oshkosh Unit 70, District 6

## Leadership – Beth Puddy, Department Chairman

- Certificate of Recognition (4) awarded to Juneau Unit 15, District 2; Appleton Unit 38, District 9; Stoughton Unit 59, District 3; Markesan Unit 282, District 6.
- Most outstanding overall Leadership Program Certificate – awarded to Nellie DeBaker of Luxemburg Unit 262, District 9
- Working to Promote a Culture of Goodwill Certificate – awarded to Nellie DeBaker of Luxemburg Unit 262, District 9

## Membership –

*Bonnie Jakubczyk, Department Chairman*

- \$25.00 Incentive for signing up new members (10) awarded to Mary Ellen Crandall of Pewaukee Unit 71, District 1; Zondra Morris of Orfordville Unit 209, District 1; Lisa Anfinson of Horicon Unit 157, District 2; Erna Cooley of Mt.

- Hope Unit 229, District 3; Mary Williams of Sun Prairie Unit 333, District 3; Barb Belmont of Menasha Unit 152, District 6; Dorothy Franzen of Crivitz Unit 413, District 9; Delma Howell of Eau Claire Unit 53, District 10; Goldie Vieth of River Falls Unit 121, District 10; Lois Chandler of Gordon Unit 499.
- \$100.00 Incentive for signing up new members – awarded to Lone Rock Unit 383, District 3
- Membership SPARK winners (16) Amy Luft of Grafton Unit 355, District 2; Mary Ellen Crandall of Pewaukee Unit 71; Dolores Slesrick of Sheboygan Falls Unit 149, District 2; Dee Dee Schirodelly of Brookfield Unit 449, District 1; Connie Wathke of Brackett Unit 550, District 10; Darlene Carlson of Milwaukee Unit 18, District 4; Lynda Olson of Pittsville Unit 153, District 8; Irene O'Connell of Birchwood Unit 379, District 12; Joyce Bouhl of Lake Geneva Unit 24, District 1; Beverly Schmidt of Frederic Unit 249, District 12; LaVerne Ball of Marion Unit 198, District 8; Gay Randall of Balsam Lake Unit 278, District 12; Mary Clements of Holmen Unit 284, District 7; Courtney Jones of Odanah Unit 25, District 11; Sharon Pillsbury of Fox Lake Unit 521, District 12; Lylette Smith of Brookfield Unit 449, District 1

## M. Louise Wilson –

*Joan Chwala, Department Chairman*

- Greatest total of Donations – awarded to District 2

## National Security

*Barbara McDaniel, Department Chairman*

- Certificate of Achievement (8) awarded to Lylette Smith of Brookfield Unit 449, District 1; Cathy Brunnquell of Grafton Unit 355, District 2; RuthAnn Dobbs of Saukville Unit 470, District 2; Kathryn Disch of DeForest Unit 348, District 3; Diane Peachey of Waupun Unit 210, District 6; Donna Nickel of Hortonville Unit 55, District 9; Joan Erickson of Pembine Unit 461,

District 9; Jeanne Brown of Gordon Unit 499, District 12.

## Poppy – Judy Kuta, Department Chairman

- Best Overall Poppy Program Certificate (2) awarded to RuthAnn Dobbs & Gerry Kovatch of Saukville Unit 470, District 2;
- Poppy Usage Contest Winner Certificate (4) awarded Lylette Smith of Brookfield Unit 449, District 1; Lois Levenhagen of Beaver Dam Unit 146, District 2; Sandy Mack of Cedarburg Unit 288, District 2; Cathy Brunnquell of Grafton Unit 355, District 2

## Public Relations –

*Danie Wilson, Department Chairman*

- Best Media Coverage Certificate – awarded to Denmark Unit 363, District 9
- Best Media Coverage (honorary mention) – awarded to Saukville Unit 470, District 2
- Brand Ambassador Certificate – awarded to Mary Ellen Race of Saukville Unit 470, District 2
- Creating Goodwill Certificate – awarded to Fifield Unit 532, District 11
- Community Visibility Certificate – awarded to Kewaskum Unit 384, District 2
- Together we Educate Certificate – awarded to Waunakee Unit 360, District 3
- Certificate of Appreciation (3) awarded to Brookfield Unit 449, District 1; Boyd Unit 326, District 10; Dawn Rudey, 2nd District President.

## Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation –

*Mary Petrie, Department Chairman*

- Certificate of Recognition (10) awarded to Watertown Unit 189, District 2; Grafton Unit 355, District 2; Saukville Unit 470, District 2; Stoughton Unit 59, District 3; Monticello Unit 256, District 3; Wausau Unit 10, District 8; New London Unit 263, District 8; Seymour Unit 106, District 9; Bever Unit 550, District 10, Gordon Unit 499, District 12

## EDUCATION

### Mary Krutz, Department Chairman

920-465-9917

wkrutz@new.rr.com

*Knowledge -- that is, education in its truest sense -- is our best protection against unreasoning prejudice, and panic-making fear, whether engendered by special interest, illiberal minorities or panic-stricken leaders.*

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

As we move forward with our 2014 – 2019 Centennial Strategic Plan, members participating in the Education Program serve as brand advocates. They are working to fulfill Goal # 5, "With the American Legion, build brand loyalty."

Education is one of our mission outreach programs. The purpose of the Education Program is to promote quality education for children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs, scholarship promotion, and support of education beyond high school, especially for military children.

Ideas and action steps may be found on the national website and reading the 2016-2017 Program Action Plan written by National Education Chairman, Norma Tramm. A similar document can be found on the department website ([www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org)), where you will find information on how to put together a 'Veterans in Community Schools' program. This program was formerly called 'Veterans in the Classroom' and is an excellent way for our school children to learn history from Veterans telling their stories.

Scholarships are awarded at the national and department levels. A list of scholarships are in the Department Program Action Plan. Application forms and instructions are available on the department website. I have also included an instruction sheet in the Program Action Plan that details how to set up a scholarship fund enabling the creation of scholarships at the Unit level. This instruction document is available on the department website in the Education Program Action Plan.

The success of these projects are dependent on building a relationship with the educators, counselors and principals in the schools. Participating in activities like 'Give 10 to Education,' and promoting 'American Education Week' (November 14-18, 2016), and 'Teacher Appreciation Week' (May 1-5, 2017) are opportunities to show our appreciation for the good work that is being done in our school systems.

For many of us, the good works we do are private and we may feel uncomfortable tooting our own horns by reporting and publishing what we do for others. But please consider this: your narrative reporting gives others the opportunity to learn new ideas; impact reports are a report card that validates the American Legion Auxiliary as a charitable organization; the pictorial reporting helps to show others that the ALA is an organization worth joining. Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or to obtain any of the documents you may need to make your district, county or unit Education Program a smashing success.

## M. LOUISE WILSON EDUCATIONAL LOAN FUND

**M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan Fund**  
**Joan Chwala,**  
**Department Chairman**  
**ctr68552@centurytel.net**  
**715-668-5661**



A lady named M. Louise Wilson had a vision. She wanted to assist women who required financial support in order to further their education. Because the American Legion Auxiliary made this vision a reality, many young women have been able to attend universities and technical colleges.

### 1. What makes this loan so unique?

It is so simple to apply for the loan. Applicants must contact the program chairman to indicate their interest in a loan. They can find the application form on the department website along with all of the rules and requirements.

### 2. What are the requirements?

The applicant must be a current member of the American Legion Auxiliary. She must submit a copy of the DD214 document for the veteran that made her eligible to belong. She must send a transcript of her high school grades. She must include 3 letters of recommendation. A responsible adult must co-sign the promissory note.

She must be approved by the program chairman.

### 3. What is the amount of the loan?

If approved, the applicant can borrow up to \$800 per year for 5 years. One year from the date of the first loan, the applicant can get an

additional \$800 by sending a copy of college grades and being a current member of the American Legion Auxiliary. If approved, she may continue to borrow annually until the total amount reaches \$4,000 or she graduates from college.

### 4. How much is the interest on this loan?

There is no interest on this loan unless the student fails to pay it back. Six months after graduation, payments of \$50 per month will be due. (Defaulting may result in an assessment for lawyer's fees.)

In order for this loan fund to continue to help our Auxiliary members pay for their education and realize their dreams, we need donations from units and districts. Your unit president has a copy of the donation sheets and it is on the Department website. Spread the word about the loans and the need for additional funding.

With your help, we will "Soar for our Veterans!"

## STRATEGIC PLAN - FANTASTIC TEAM 4 UPDATE

### Change to Voting Procedure for Department Chaplain and Historian

Goal 4 of Wisconsin's Strategic Plan is to Strengthen Department and Units. In order to do this we are challenged to (a) Excel at Communication, (b) Evaluate Election and Appointment Process, (c) Evaluate units, county and district organizational structure, and (d) Investigate ways to improve Department's financial stability.

Team 4 has been working hard to identify ways to positively meet this goal as we work through the strategies identified above.

At Department convention in July the delegation voted to update the Standing Rules to read as follows:

*"In line with The American Legion Counsel General's opinion, any member may run for any office as a right of membership. While each experience as an officer or chairman helps to prepare the member for higher office, members have the right to pursue any office that is personally fulfilling without obligation to seek other offices."*

What does this mean for you? As a member in good standing of the American Legion Auxiliary,

you may run for any office you would like, at any level, without any obligation to progress up the ladder to a 'higher' office or even becoming Department President. Individuals should be allowed to use their special talents in a position of leadership that match their desires and skills. The offices of Chaplain and Historian are often inviting to members who are gifted with special skills that could be shared with our ALA family in Wisconsin. However, some of these members do not have the desire or skills to become the Department President and these positions have traditionally been the first steps to the President position. On the National level, these two positions stand alone and are not part of the progression to National President.

This update to the Standing Rules clarifies this point. In order to have the best qualified, talented and skilled leaders for our organization, this change would allow more members to run for election as an officer and yet would not require many years of commitment on

their part.

Also, this should encourage members from across the state to run for 2nd Vice President and 1st Vice President positions. We would have elections of viable candidates who would then be accountable for their accomplishments and past years of service and would not simply move from one position to the next. It would also shorten the years our officers commit to our organization from six years to four years, which might appeal to additional, qualified members.

We are looking to encourage more talented, truly motivated, skilled leaders to run for Department offices. We want our best leaders to become our Department leaders. One of those best could be YOU!

Please feel free to contact Strategic Plan Goal 4 Goal Champions Becky Mueller (clarecan-dbecky@aol.com) or Judy Kuta (ronkarmy@aol.com) with any questions or comments.

We value your opinions and would be happy to discuss this change with you.

## National President Fundraising Campaign Winding Down

**Diane Duscheck**  
Candidate for  
National President



There have been so many successful fundraising activities in the past two years. Heads and Tails, the Club 600 Raffle, felt poppies, pens, and pounds and pounds of pennies. Tickets for the Club 600 Raffle can be purchased until noon, October 14, 2016, when the winning tickets will be drawn at the American Legion Fall Meetings. Members, Units, Posts, Squadrons and Chapters, buy your Club 600 Raffle ticket now to support both the National Commander campaign for Denise Rohan and the National President campaign for Diane Duscheck.

In comparing the donations raised for the National President's campaign with the expected expenses, the fund is doing well

and by the time of the Club 600 drawing, we expect to cover all future expenses. Therefore, following the Club 600 drawing in October, the National President Team Duscheck campaign will not have any more organized fundraisers. Thank you again for your generous support.

How about that for record time fundraising? How did Team Duscheck reach our goal so quickly? Because of you... each member, District President, and Team Duscheck and Team Wisconsin member who donated money, in-kind donations and time to support Diane.

Wisconsin continues to be a leader as we support and pass on the legacy of leadership and service for God and Country to future generations.

Thank you again for your generous support.



**Amy Luft, Dept. Chairman**  
amyluft@gmail.com  
414-651-7300

**VOTING MATTERS!**  
*Make your voice heard...  
Every vote counts!*

Things are looking pretty bleak in the political world these days – especially this year.

Reality is, many citizens may take their right to vote for granted, but it wasn't truly that long ago when entire swaths of the population – like women – were denied that right. Women were granted suffrage in 1919, meaning the grandmothers of many millennials were alive during a time when they were prohibited from casting a ballot.

Our nation saw one of the lowest voting rates in its history during the last recent election. Unfortu-

nately, this November may not be any better.

**Voting matters.** When voters don't turn out to choose their national, state and local governments, they receive a government that doesn't represent them. More importantly, it's our civic duty. Our military has fought for all of us to have this and many other freedoms... the least we can do is show our appreciation by utilizing these rights.

If nothing else, voting is a license to justifiably complain about your elected officials. Your grievances will carry more weight if you speak out as a voter trying to hold your candidates accountable for promises they made.

Respect your right to vote! It's a privilege that many people in the world don't have.

## NEW OPPORTUNITY!

**Wanted – A Member for the  
Department Finance Committee**

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin revised the Department Bylaws at the 2016 Department Convention to allow any member with appropriate experience to serve on the Department Finance Committee, effective with the 2017-2018 administrative year. Additional members on the Finance Committee include the Alternate National Executive Committeewoman and the Office Policy Committee Chairman.

The Senior Vice President and the First and Second Vice Presidents, with input from the Department President and the Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer, will appoint one member annually to serve for a

three-year term on the Finance Committee.

Candidates for this position need to have experience in accounting, finance, auditing or other relevant experience to be considered. A resume highlighting this experience must be submitted to Department Headquarters by April 15, 2017. Resumes may be sent via email to deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org or mailed to ALA-Wisconsin, Attn: Dept Executive Secretary-Treasurer, PO Box 140, Portage, WI 53901-0140.

Candidates to be considered will be contacted by the appointment committee for a telephone interview and subsequently will be notified by mail once a decision has been reached.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY · DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN  
Cordially invites all Auxiliary, Legion and SAL members to

## Dinner with the National President

**Saturday, October 29, 2016**

**Oak Creek Community Center • 8580 S Howell Ave, Oak Creek, WI**

**Social Hour: 5:30 PM • Dinner: 6:30 PM**

**Cost: \$25.00 per person**



National President  
Mary Davis

UNIT NAME & NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF EACH PERSON ATTENDING: Auxiliary, Legion, SAL, Guest Seating will be assigned, 8 per table

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT & PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_ # OF RESERVATIONS \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ALA-Wisconsin SEND TO:  
DIANA SIROVINA, 9428 W EDEN PL, MILWAUKEE, WI 53228-1410  
For Information call: Diana Sirovina 414-321-1479 or email sirovina@att.net  
Reservation deadline: OCTOBER 8, 2016 – NO EXCEPTIONS!!

**Rooms are available at the Comfort Suites  
6362 S 13th St, 414-570-1111 (\$92)  
Ask for American Legion Auxiliary block  
Deadline is 10/1/16**

## CAN YOU HELP US?

What do you think the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin should do to increase interest and attendance at our annual Department Convention in the future?

Please discuss this question with your members at a unit meeting or simply reply individually and return your ideas to Department Headquarters, Attn: Bonnie Dorniak, P.O. Box 140, Portage, WI 53901 or deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org. A brief survey is avail-

able on the department website's home page if you would be interested in providing more concise feedback.

Additionally, a meeting has been scheduled at Department Headquarters on Saturday, November 19, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm to discuss ideas. If you are interested in attending, please notify Bonnie Dorniak at Department Headquarters. A light lunch will be provided.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

## THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to all who remembered my family during the recent death of my mother, Irene Tranel, on July 25th. Your kind words of consolation and cards helped us through a difficult time. Mom will continue to live on in our hearts. The American Legion Family was of great moral support.

Dee Woolf, Executive Director  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Badger Girls State