



December 2025

Issue 05

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From the President's Desk

As this year comes to an end, I am thankful for my ALA family, which has grown since I have become involved in District 2 Leadership. Each one of you are the reason that the American Legion Auxiliary is the largest veteran service organization in the United States. As you look towards the new year, I challenge you not to “add to your to do list”, but “fine-tune the things that you do well”. Whether an individual member, unit or county, any act of kindness is a step in the right direction and appreciated by those on the receiving end. In the new year, please take time for yourself and your family. Enjoy the small things in life and know that you do make a difference in someone's life. Wishing you a safe and healthy holiday season.

Kathy Olson

Dates to Remember

December 2, 2025 – Giving Tuesday

December 7, 2025 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

December 13, 2025 – Army National Guard's Birthday (1636)

December 13, 2025 – Wreaths Across America Day

December 15, 2025 – Deadline to submit Poppy Orders

December 28, 2025 – National Pledge of Allegiance Day

January 15-18, 2026 – 2026 Midwinter Conference – Oneida Casino Hotel, Green Bay, WI

Chaplain's Corner

District 2 Chaplain

Natalia Genovesi King

DECEMBER



Mark Your Calendar: Wreaths Across America – December 13, 2025

Each year in December, thousands of volunteers come together to honor those who've served by laying wreaths at veterans' graves. This year, Wreaths Across America will take place on Saturday, December 13, with more than 4,225 locations participating across all 50 states, at sea, and overseas.

Many of our American Legion Family members are part of this meaningful tradition. Last year, thanks in part to their efforts, over 3 million wreaths were placed nationwide – a truly remarkable show of gratitude.

If you've never taken part, I encourage you to give it a try. It's a powerful experience. If you're unable to volunteer in person, you can still contribute by sponsoring a wreath through your local American Legion Unit, Post, or Squadron – or by visiting: wreathsacrossamerica.org.

On a personal note: my father is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Each year, it's humbling to witness strangers quietly laying wreaths for those they never knew-yet honor just the same. It's a moment of connection, respect, and silent thanks.

This year will be the first time I won't be able to lay a wreath at my father's grave. To the kind soul who does – Thank you. While my heart will be at Arlington, I'll be in Baltimore at the Army-Navy game, cheering (very loudly) for *his* team. I won't say which one – but if you see a tiny sign, it might give it away.

As we approach the season, let's take a moment to pray for the volunteers, and for the heroes whose graves they will honor:

A Prayer for Wreath Across America

Heavenly Father,
We thank You for the brave men and women who served our nation with honor. As wreaths are laid in remembrance, let them symbolize not just loss, but love, eternal life, and deep gratitude. Bless those who place them with willing hands and full hearts.
Comfort families who mourn and may the light of cherished memories shine brightly this season. May the legacy of these veterans remind us all to live with kindness, courage, and purpose.
In Your name,
Amen.

Wishing the happiest of holidays to my American Legion Family.
See you next year!



Get to know your District 2 Officers

District 2 is made up of 6 Counties, 40 Units and 2,114 members (2025 paid memberships). The area ranges from Wisconsin Dells, Fort Atkinson, to Sheboygan and all the area in between. It is a far-reaching District. There are 9 officers that lead the District from all different Units. Let's get to know a little about these 9 officers. This month highlighting...

Maggie Geiger is our First Vice President.

Maggie has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for 20 years. She is a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) member.

She is member of the Peter Wollner Unit 288 in Cedarburg, WI.

Maggie has held many positions in ALA. She is the Ozaukee County President, Poppy District Chairman, Legislative District Chairman, Standing Rules Department Chairman, Distinguished Guest Chairman and NEC. She has also held the following positions in the past: Unit Level – Chaplain, Treasurer, Secretary, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, President, Sweat 4 Vets Chairman, VA&R Chairman, Poppy Chairman, Children & Youth Chairman, Executive Board Member; Ozaukee County Level – Sgt-at-Arms, Chaplain, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, VA&R Chairman; District – Chaplain, 2nd Vice President; VA&R Chairman, Poppy, Legislative; Department – Historian, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, Senior Vice President, Poppy Chairman, Legislative Chairman, Americanism Chairman, Membership Committee & Chairman, Leadership Committee, ALA In The Know Co-Chairman, Badger Girls State Committee, and serve as counselor, assistant counselor, Liaison to Camp American Legion, Asst NEC.

Maggie is eligible for the Auxiliary through the WWII service of her beloved dad, Herbert “Buck” Masters, Army.

When asked what other information she would like people to know and learn about her, she replied:

“I love our organization! One of the few that we can proudly stand for God & Country!”

Helping members with questions, encouraging members, sharing laughs and being there when a shoulder is needed to lean on, has and is an honor for me. We are a family that come from different walks of life, backgrounds, professions, some are single, married, or widowed. Sometimes we have disagreements, but when those differences are put aside, magic happens for our veterans, military, their families and our communities!

My husband Brian and I enjoy spending time at our cottage, being with our children and our grandchildren, keeping active is important. During the winter months we enjoy curling. I don't think anytime soon I will be making the Senior National Team, but it is fun and I have met many wonderful people. I also enjoy my morning coffee and devotionals. I feel so incredibly blessed to have served and continue to serve in the ALA representing the amazing members here in the Department of WI!”



Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Shirley Krier

2nd District VA&R Chairman

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the Mighty Second District. My name is Shirley Krier and I am the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) Chairman for the 2nd District. This year I have picked Camp American Legion as my project. This is also President Sue Hembrook's special project.

The theme of my project this year will be helping and honoring our Veterans. Some suggestions for camp are

- gift cards for Walmart, Menards, Home Depot, Kwik Trip and Amazon.
- Disinfectant spray cleaner, iron out tabs (toilet tanks), iron out spray bottles, trash bags (tall kitchen and small), Dawn dish soap, Clorox and Lyson toilet cleaner.
- This is only some of the items on the wish list. There are also kitchen, miscellaneous and big-ticket items on the wish list.

Items purchased from Amazon will be shipped directly to camp.

The entire list can be found on the American Legion Auxiliary website under Legion Family Resources, www.campamericanlegion.org, under Wish List 2025.

This year I will have to definite deadline for donations, though I would feel that Spring would be a nice time to have the deadline so any items can be taken to Camp American Legion.

Monetary donations should be sent to Mary Montag, 2nd District Treasurer, 726 Jean Ct, Allenton, WI 53002.

Thank you in advance for your contribution to this District project.



American Legion Family USA 250 Challenge

According to the Legion website, The American Legion Family is honoring the nation's 250th birthday with a commitment to embracing physical activity, supporting mental health and serving it's communities. The USA 250 Challenge encourages American Legion Family members, other veterans and all Americans to participate, and even raise additional money to support our disabled veterans and families in need through The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.

The year-long initiative offers three categories – fitness, mental wellness and community service – in order to engage more American Legion Family members and others to participate.

You may engage in one, two or all three activities as an individual or as part of a team like a Post, Unit, Squadron or Riders chapter.

The registration fee is \$30.00 and each participant will receive their choice of a USA 250 Challenge tech shirt. Donations will go to the Veterans and Children Foundation.

Ideas for things to do in the three categories are

- **Fitness** – cover 250 miles (or hours) of any fitness activities you choose. Examples for individuals include walking, hiking, running, cycling, swimming, using the elliptical, playing pickleball, rowing, etc. Participants may also join a group effort to achieve the goal. Example 10 teammates walking an average of 25 miles each.
- **Wellness** – complete 250 hours of wellness activities. Examples for individuals include yoga, meditation and other forms of mindfulness.
- **Community Service** – complete 250 hours of community service. Examples cleaning up 250 graves in a veterans cemetery, teaching flag etiquette to 250 students, sending 250 care packages to deployed troops.

Go to the following website to register and track your progress.

<https://www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/usa250/challenge>



Membership

REMINDER - County Presidents contact your Units and Unit Presidents contact your members to keep the membership numbers rolling.

This year's membership theme is "National Park Service".

The 2nd District's National Park is **Denali**. Membership will be calculated for each Unit, County and District.

Units can begin having their members pay their 2026 membership dues. Dues can either be paid over the phone by calling National direct @ 317-569-4570 (Mon.-Fri. 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.), online by logging on to the National website at www.ALAforVeterans.org, or they can pay their membership chairperson at their Unit.

Encourage early payment of membership dues to be eligible for a Unit "Navigation/Compass" Award. Membership dues must be at Department Headquarters PRIOR to the goal date to be considered eligible and the Unit must have the 2025-2026 Unit Officer Form submitted to Department with officers' dues paid to be eligible. One Unit will be awarded \$100.00.

75% is paid by September 15, 2025 – **winner Berlin Unit #340, District 6**

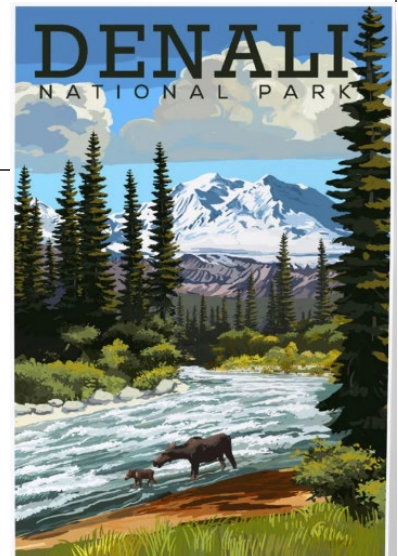
85% is paid by October 15, 2025 – **winner Coleman Unit #280, District 9**

95% is paid by November 15, 2025 – **winner DeForest Unit #348, District 3**

100% is paid by December 15, 2025.

There is also a "Park Pass" Award. If a Unit has 100% membership dues to Department Headquarters PRIOR to December 31, 2025, you will receive 2 entries per Unit or January 31, 2026, you will receive 1 entry per Unit. The Unit must also have their 2025-2026 Unit Officer from on file at Department Headquarters. The "Park Pass" Award will be one winner, selected at random on February 14, 2026, to receive:

- Two Paid Department Convention registrations
- One paid room for a 2-night stay at the Hilton Appleton Paper Valley Hotel
- Two passes for Saturday night's (July 18, 2026) Commander's party
- Special Convention recognition.



100% UNIT		2026 Membership processed as of 11/18/25						
		UNIT	CITY	2026 GOAL	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT
02	Columbia	0062	Columbus	16	0	10	10	62.50%
		0187	Wisconsin Dells	38	1	32	33	86.84%
		0208	Rio	32	0	32	32	100.00%
		0215	Pardeeville	39	1	30	31	79.49%
		0216	Lodi	40	3	27	30	75.00%
		0271	Poynette	25	0	15	15	60.00%
		0401	Cambria	48	3	45	48	100.00%
		Total		238	8	191	199	83.61%
	Dodge	0015	Juneau	67	2	27	29	43.28%
		0069	Mayville	85	2	67	69	81.18%
		0146	Beaver Dam	78	2	39	41	52.56%
		0157	Horicon	86	4	43	47	54.65%
		0270	Theresa	30	6	17	23	76.67%
		0347	Lomira	34	1	23	24	70.59%
		0420	Hustisford	17	0	13	13	76.47%
		0521	Fox Lake	98	3	76	79	80.61%
	Total		495	20	305	325	65.66%	
	Jefferson	0067	Lake Mills	51	0	38	38	74.51%
		0164	Jefferson	33	0	21	21	63.64%
		0166	Fort Atkinson	52	2	39	41	78.85%
		0189	Watertown	82	5	37	42	51.22%
		0233	Waterloo	39	6	27	33	84.62%
		0305	Johnson Creek	27	0	17	17	62.96%
		Total		284	13	179	192	67.61%
	Ozaukee	0082	Port Washington	70	2	51	53	75.71%
		0288	Cedarburg	159	9	111	120	75.47%
		0355	Grafton	155	11	113	124	80.00%
		0410	Fredonia	18	0	18	18	100.00%
		0412	Belgium	31	0	22	22	70.97%
		0457	Mequon-Thiensville	53	1	25	26	49.06%
		0470	Saukville	155	1	104	105	67.74%
		Total		641	24	444	468	73.01%
	Sheboygan	0083	Sheboygan	32	10	23	33	103.13%
		0145	Random Lake	20	1	10	11	55.00%
		0149	Sheboygan Falls	28	0	24	24	85.71%
		0243	Plymouth	135	3	92	95	70.37%
		0387	Franklin	53	4	30	34	64.15%
		0462	Adell	12	0	8	8	66.67%
		Total		280	18	187	205	73.21%
	Washington	0036	West Bend	32	1	18	19	59.38%
		0321	Germantown	39	13	22	35	89.74%
		0384	Kewaskum	75	17	51	68	90.67%
		0483	Allenton	88	8	64	72	81.82%
		0486	Jackson	82	2	44	46	56.10%
		0522	Hubertus	32	1	31	32	100.00%
		Total		348	42	230	272	78.16%
Total			2286	125	1536	1661	72.66%	