



## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.legion.org) and [www.alaforveterans.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_