

Department of Wisconsin

2025 Department Convention Floor Reports

click on program title to view report

President Becky Mueller

ALA in the Know

American Legion Auxiliary

Badger Girls State

Americanism

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Bowling

Chaplain/Music

Children & Youth

Community Service

Constitution & Bylaws

Education

Finance

Foundation (ALA)

Fundraising

Junior Activities

Leadership

Legislative

Membership

National Security

Office Policy

Past President Parley

Poppy Program

Public Relations

Standing Rules

Director of Hospital

Volunteers

Veterans Affairs &

Rehabilitation

VA&R: Christmas Gift Shop

VA&R: Homeless Women

Veterans

VA&R: Service to Veterans





President's Report

Rebecca Mueller









PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS:

1 Opening slide



THANK YOU!

Good morning, Delegation,

Thank you for a wonderful term filled with so many blessings. I thank God for you and praise Him for your hearts filled with love and willingness to serve others. I find it difficult to put into words what this opportunity has meant to me. I have been so blessed to see you in action, to hear your successes and victories, to witness the difference you have made to so many, and to share your grief as one of your family. This has been an emotional year – filled with ups and downs but always moving forward. It was my honor and privilege to represent you. Thank you.

It's hard to believe it was just a year ago in Appleton that you bestowed on me this honor. So much has happened in this trip from Appleton to Green Bay – so much more than you would expect in 30 miles or so. As Ralph Waldo Emerson says, "It's not the destination. It's the journey."

I had some idea of what to expect, but this journey has been so much more. Opportunities that I never expected have arisen. Places I never expected to visit. People I never expected to meet. All this has happened and more; and I owe it all to you. Thank you.

2 slide of Mr. Magoo



The department car and I have become close, spending hours and thousands of miles together. Most of those miles were straight to my destination and then home again. Occasionally, we took the scenic route and found hidden gems. I am tired of hearing 'recalculating' – how did the car know I was lost? I might have gone that way on purpose! I am grateful for GPS!

Like the car, I usually was looking out the windshield to see where I was going and what was ahead. Fortunately, I can look back through the rearview mirror and appreciate where I have been. So, let me take you on the ride of my life.

3. collage of meeting pictures









It has been so amazing to attend conferences and meetings and participate – learning and exchanging innovative ideas and success stories. I really enjoyed sitting down and hearing about your life and volunteer activities. Meeting together with the entire Legion family, having a meal and fellowship strengthen those bonds. You were creative in making these conferences fun and exciting. Everything from wearing Halloween socks, patriotic scarves, and poppy hats to having centerpiece contests and raffles. Truckloads of donations were gathered at each conference and Midwinter. The Auxiliary knows how to collect and distribute items in a highly effective way – from toiletries to baby diapers to handmade cards to food and more. Central Division National Vice President Rosemarie Hauck enjoyed taking part in the ALA In The Know conference at Cedarburg. She even learned some new things from us. Everywhere I went I heard about the heartfelt ways you continue to serve our veterans, military, and each other from the depths of your heart. Thank you.

4 hospital visits - gift cards etc











The privilege to meet with various VA facilities' administrators and listen to the wonderful things they had to say about our amazing volunteers made me so proud. You care so much. Please know you make a difference. On your behalf, I presented checks and gift cards for special projects at each place. Your thoughtful donations were very well received. Gift cards for free café meals for the Veterans Home at King; grills and propane for Union Grove Veterans Home; garden benches for Dayton Care Center; gift cards for hospital veterans to help with food insecurity and fuel at the Zablocki, Middleton and Minneapolis VA Medical Centers; technical equipment to improve close-circuit TV at Tomah VA; and hearing aid batteries among other things. Thank you.

5 Army National Guard & A.L.F. Dog





Deployments are happening to our National Guard members and their families. Along with the Sons of the American Legion (SAL), I helped hand out 1,700 A.L.F. comfort dogs. I am so proud of our SAL for developing the A.L.F. Dog program to show our support and love. These soft and cuddly dogs make a difference. You can see it in the kids' faces as they snuggle them close. What bittersweet moments. So proud of these outstanding men and women willing to serve and go when and where needed. So proud of the families standing with them and supporting them as they leave for unknown parts of the world. So sad to see them leave their loved ones behind. Our prayers go out for all these brave men and women and their families. Praise God for these families that have the courage to stand up for all of us and continue to serve our country and the cause of freedom.

6 Capitol building





I was invited, along with Commander Jim, to the Governor's Mansion for a reception. What a great Veteran's Day celebration to be addressed by Governor Tony Evers and James Bond, the James Bond Secretary of the WDVA. The Woman Veteran of the Year, Yolanda Medina, was introduced and spoke.

On Veteran's Day at the Capitol, I was back in Madison, advocating for our Veterans and Military. Over 400 members of the various veteran organizations marched to the Capitol and met with our representatives and senators. What an awesome experience. Continue to contact your legislators on all levels. Our voices need to be heard.



I can't describe what your service and commitment mean to me. I asked you to open your hearts to POW/MIA families and you did. Some of you found those families and welcomed them to tell their stories. You have educated your units and posts about recovery efforts. You have joined in ceremonies to welcome their loved one's home for a burial. Thank you to UW-Madison MIA RIP for the work you are doing. We support you and appreciate your dedication.

8 AEF



The Auxiliary Emergency Fund received a huge amount of donations. I encouraged you to donate \$1 for every member. You far exceeded that amount donating almost \$2.50 per member! Thank you. I must share a story that touched my heart — when I was at King Veterans Home for the Juniors Fall Conference a female veteran won at Bingo — \$1.50 that would allow her to purchase a soda, candy bar, or some special treat. After hearing about my project, she donated her winnings to help others. It was all she had, and she gave it all. From her wheelchair, she was serving others.

Speaking of the Juniors – what an awesome group of young ladies. I had the privilege of going to both of their fall and spring conferences. Yes, they had fun, but they also worked hard at service projects while at King and Camp American Legion. And what a great job they did at Midwinter! We all learned something that day.

9 ZOOM computer screen/phone





ZOOMing

Zooming around the computer with you had its challenges – but we conquered them. It was so nice to see who I was talking to and share ideas and strategies. I hope you found them beneficial. Most weeks I had at least one, some weeks I had three or four meetings. Sure, it saved me some miles and wear and tear on the car and my body. Your time and commitment to the programs and members of this organization are to be commended. Great job and THANK YOU.

10 repeat opening slide



THANK YOU!

So many places and people in my rearview mirror – I can't mention them all but know you have touched my heart, and I am grateful for your love and support. You have opened your heart to me and filled my heart to overflowing. I was able to walk with you on your journey as we intersected routes, laughing with you, cheering for you, crying with you, and serving with you.

Now is the time for me to look through the windshield for what is ahead on my journey in the American Legion Auxiliary. When I wrote this, I was preparing to attend Camp American Legion 100th Anniversary – a once in a lifetime event and then returned to Oshkosh for the 2025 session of American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girl State. Talk about impressive young ladies! So talented, so bright, and so much potential.

Just a side note – the young people that we work with are amazing. I witnessed their thought processes at the Legion Oratorical contest. WOW! Our future is in good hands with them.

In June, Clarence and I took part in the Cruise for a Cause. Don't worry, I wasn't on a motorcycle. I took the Auxiliary car and was part of the Advance Team. I got to be part of the fundraising for Camp and suicide prevention.

Once more, I will be moving forward to new adventures, places, and people, but working together in Service to our Veterans, Military, and Each Other from the depths of my heart.

Thank you for being part of my journey and taking me along for the ride of my life. God bless.





President's Remarks 2024-2025













Heart of the ALA Awards

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families









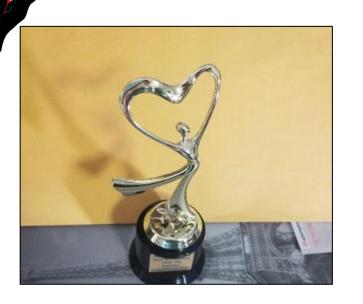






Heart of the ALA Awards

Ozaukee County



Recognizing the Heart of Ozaukee County - multiple units working together to benefit so many more than one unit could alone.











Heart of the ALA Awards

Montello Unit 351



Recognizing the Heart of newly rechartered units – Montello **Unit 351**





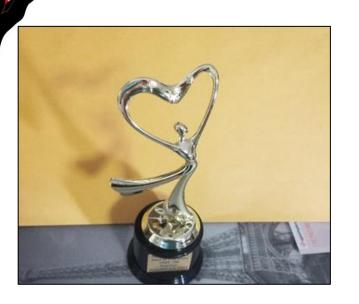






Heart of the ALA Awards





Recognizing the Heart that encourages others offering positive messages of support -Mauston Unit 81.











Heart of the ALA Awards



Independence Unit 186



Recognizing the Heart that cherishes the memories of those who came before them, blazing the trail of service, not self -Independence Unit 186.





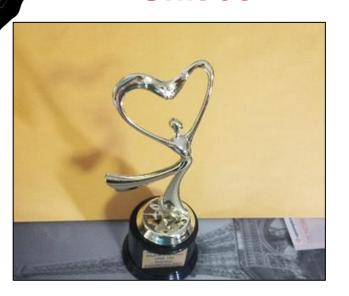






Heart of the ALA Awards

Cumberland Unit 98



Recognizing the Heart that sees the needs in distant places and attempts to meet those needs – Cumberland **Unit 98.**





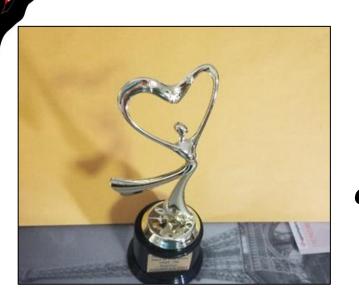






Heart of the ALA Awards

Seymour Unit 106



Recognizing the Heart that walks in the back door, pulls up a chair and asks what can I do for you -Seymour Unit 106.





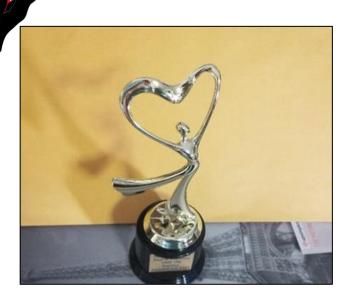






Heart of the ALA Awards

DeForest Unit 348



Recognizing the Heart for maintaining the personal touch to serve our Veterans, Military and Each other -**DeForest** Unit 348.





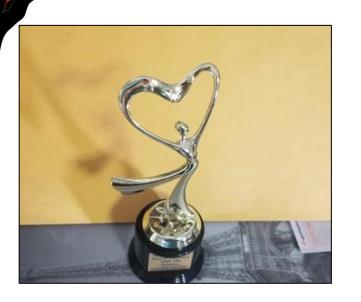






Heart of the ALA Awards

Lone Rock Unit 383



Recognizing the Heart of joy and having fun while making a difference – Lone Rock Unit 383.





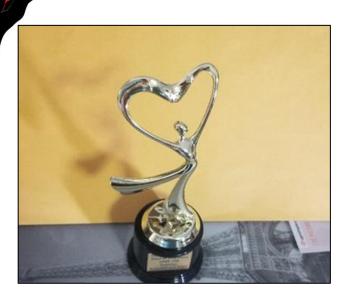






Heart of the ALA Awards

Plymouth Unit 243



Recognizing the Heart that drives the hands and feet of service; cooking, sewing, donating-**Plymouth** Unit 243.











Heart of the ALA Awards



Grantsburg Unit 185



Recognizing the Heart willing to be a blessing to those missing in action and those Auxiliary members affected by disasters – Grantsburg Unit 185.









Committee/Program Reports

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



Diane Steinert ALA In The Know





AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY IN THE KNOW

Diane Steinert, Department Chairman

The American Legion Auxiliary's "In the Know" presentations engaged and educated members of The American Legion Family in 2024. Our goal was simple: to deepen members' understanding of American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Family programs

We successfully held sessions in three locations - Cumberland, Gillett, and Cedarburg —with excellent attendance! A total of 167 members participated, including many first-time attendees.

These sessions, covered essential online resources like the MyAuxiliary Member Portal and National/Department websites, demonstrating how to use them to support the ALA's mission through Program Engagement Plans (PEPs). One participant noted, "Thank you for all the info. It was a lot to take in but I certainly will be doing more research on the state and national websites."

Sessions for Leadership and American Legion Programs were also well-received, providing information and promoting attendee engagement.

Presenters also explored other programs, including Public Relations, Annual Reports, and Membership. Attendees particularly appreciated the PR content with one member commenting, "I loved the PR presentation. So many ideas on how we can do better in our community. Looking forward to next year."

President Becky attended each session adding to the presentations. A highlight was the Cedarburg session, where Central Division National Vice President Rosemarie Hauck joined to share greetings from the National Organization.

Based on the comments, I believe attendees found new and exciting takeaways to build their Unit programs.

I extend my sincere thanks to all the ALA members who dedicated their time and effort to preparing and presenting the 2024 ALA in the Know sessions. It was an incredible experience to work alongside every one of you!

Now, let's turn our attention to ALAITK 2025. We are excited to announce the dates and locations:

September 13, 2025: Beaver Dam, WI
September 20, 2025: Cumberland, WI
September 27, 2025: Stoughton, WI

• October 4, 2025: Loyal, WI

The registration form is readily available on our website and through your Unit mailings. Chairperson Barb McDaniel and her team are working to assemble another outstanding program for this year!

President Becky, this concludes my report for the ALA in the Know program. Thank you for this appointment.





ALA In the Know

Department of Wisconsin Website: www.amlegionauxwi.org

- Includes information on the different programs
- An electronic copy of the current Red Book and Unit Guidebook

National Website: www.ALAforVeterans.org

- Includes information on the different programs
- Templates with the ALA branding, recruitment tools and toolkits











ALA In the Know













ALA In the Know













ALA In the Know



PDP Maggie Geiger presenting Most Outstanding Department Public Relations Program in Central Division to Bob Shappell, Department Chairman.











ALA In the Know



Central Division
National Vice
President
Rosemarie Hauck





ALA In the Know

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



September 20, 2025: Cumberland, WI



- September 27, 2025: Stoughton, WI
- October 4, 2025: Loyal, WI





Committee/Program Reports

American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State Dany Thompson









(Slide 1) It was another successful year at ALA Badger Girls State, where approximately 500 delegates and 60 counselors gathered at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh just a little over a month ago. As you can see, we had a wide range of counselors from former delegates to seasoned ALA members.

(Slide 2) On Monday the Citizens of the 50th state of badger began to run for office. They collected nomination signatures and started campaigning. They created old-school posters to hang in the residence halls, and also took to social media to get their message across. These citizens knew how to reach their constituents.

(Slide 3) On Tuesday it was party day! No, not the party you are thinking about- but rather when the two political parties, Nationalists and Federalists, held their primaries and tried to put their party on top. Even when they were on opposite sides, they still maintained their strong connections and friendships.

(Slide 4) Now we take a musical detour by looking at two of our interest groups, Band and Chorus. On Sunday the band had exactly 1 hour to meet their director, each other, and then rehearse in order to play at our opening convocation. They did a fantastic job all week and had many accolades. Chorus was another interest group with very little rehearsal time yet sounded like they had been singing together for years. It shows what talented delegates you all sent to us.

(Slide 5) On Wednesday it was Red, White, and Blue day along with Poppy Day. There were many poppy princesses and poppy queens running around! That evening we had the privilege of the Oshkosh Post to demonstrate a Flag Retirement ceremony for all our delegates. As always, they did a great job and answered some thoughtful questions from our citizens. After that we were honored to have the State Commander and our Department President Becky hand out Blue Star Banners to delegates who had immediate family members serving overseas. I believe this was the first year we had someone with 5 blue stars!

(Slide 6) Now another detour is to highlight a two more of our interest groups. First we have Service to Veterans which did many things, including folding a ton of pocket flags! Then we had Patriotism which learned how to advance the colors properly for our Inaugural Ceremony and then did a proper flag folding on the last day.

(Slide 7) On Thursday we had our Inaugural Ceremony which is a highlight of our week. We were honored to have the Wisconsin Governor, Secretary of State, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Treasurer, and new Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court join us in celebrating the week and recognizing the delegates who were elected to the highest offices.

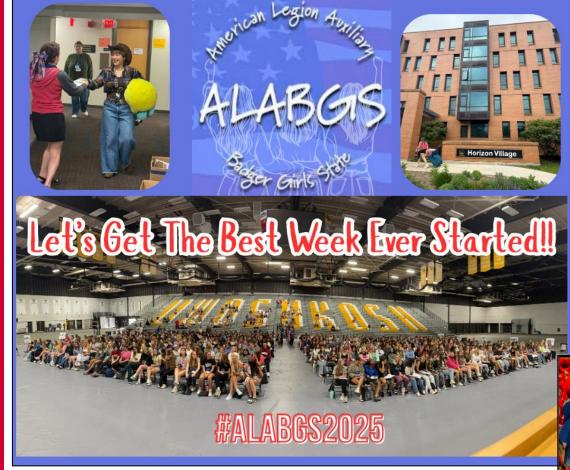
(Slide 8) We also had a lot of fun that week. As you can see, the delegates have a sense of humor and took their various jobs, such as County Coroner, VERY seriously. They also connected with counselors of every age and there were MANY MANY selfies floating around.

(Slide 9) On Friday it was State Fair time and time to say goodbye. We had a lot of delegates who showed off musical and comedy talents! We also had State Fair displays that showed up all the work they did that week.

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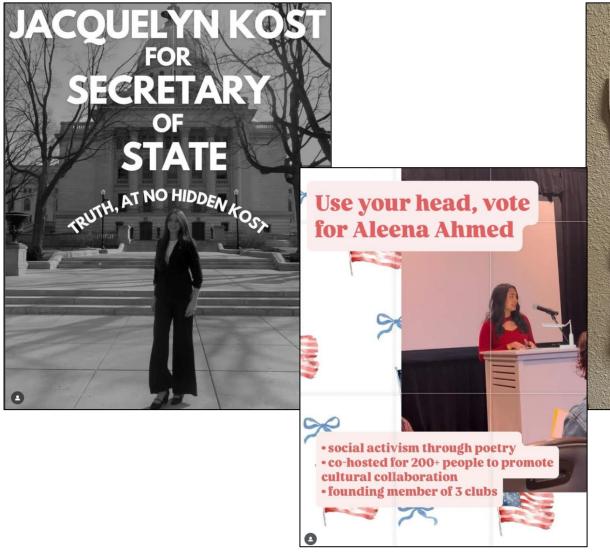


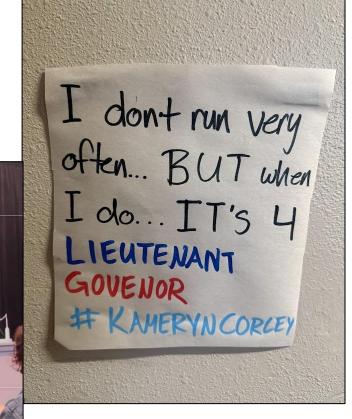














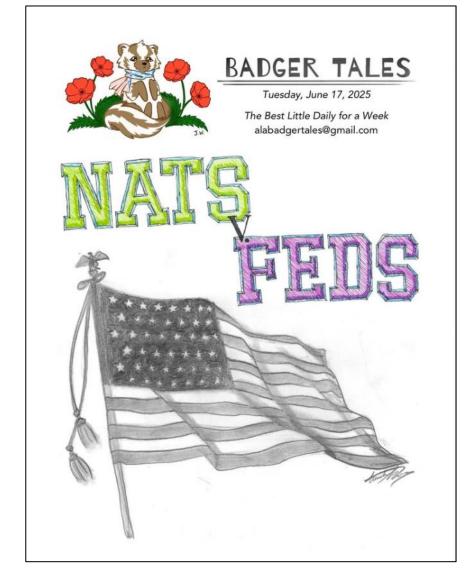




EGION AUXILIARY

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Military,
and their Families

























EGION AUXILIARY

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Serving Veterans,
Military,
and their Families







































































American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State

Kaliope Morgan
ALABGS Governor











Committee/Program Reports

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



Diane Burkhalter Americanism









Americanism



Unit 13, Richland Center—mascot and a happy girl

Unit 13, Richland Center Donkey mascots













Americanism



Unit 540,
Haugen's
First ever
Americanism
Essay
Participant

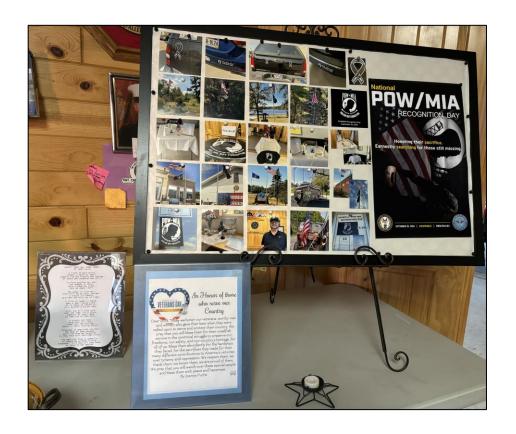






Americanism

Unit 185, Grantsburg POW/MIA Pictorial Scavenger Hunt











Americanism



Unit 186, Independence Grave Marker Project









Americanism



Unit 33, Neenah Junior Members

Shattuck Park Project











Americanism



Unit 469 Marathon



"It's Cool to be Patriotic!!











Committee/Program Reports

Auxiliary Emergency Fund Bonnie Dorniak







AEF FLOOR REPORT by Bonnie Dorniak

Members helping members — that is what the Auxiliary Emergency Fund is all about. President Becky selected AEF as her special project in keeping with her theme, "Serving Our Veterans, Military, and Each Other from the Depths of Our Hearts."

Auxiliary members may apply for hardship or disaster grants of up to \$3,000 if they have been a member for three years and paid for the current year. Applications are submitted directly to the national organization to maintain confidentiality. One Wisconsin member received a hardship grant for \$2,250 from AEF this year.

Many Wisconsin units raised money for AEF through traditional fundraising activities. Apparently, we like to eat as evidenced by a wide variety of food fundraisers. Units also offered game nights, raffles, craft/vendor fairs, and recycled ink cartridges to raise money for AEF. Some units asked for donations from each member at meetings and some of those units matched their members' donations.

While every unit's contributions were invaluable, I can only highlight a few today:

[INSERT PIC 1] Unit 13 in Richland Center raised \$1,200 through their annual bake sale in December at a local bank!

Unit 82 in Port Washington used a poem from President Becky suggesting different donation amounts based on "personal blessings." Grateful members donated \$200.

Unit 189 in Watertown gave each member a plastic sandwich bag and asked them to save pocket change for three months. This was a fun and easy way to "fund the Fund."

Unit 270 in Theresa had a very successful cake and ice cream fundraiser, raising \$200 for AEF!

[CAN YOU MAKE A COLLAGE OF PICTURES 2-5?] Unit 224 in Alma participated in the annual 100-Mile-Garage-Sale. All the little towns on both sides of the Mississippi River participate, including the Alma Legion Family. The Legion Hall was filled wall-to-wall with items for sale.

Unit 434 in Oak Creek passed around a jam jar so members could "help others out of a jam." They raised \$165.

Unit 494 in Caledonia donated \$1,000 from Jukebox Bingo.

Unit 185 in Grantsburg presented an interactive version of "The Beat Goes On" at their District Conference. A list of questions of things that each unit could do determined the unit's pulse. Each "yes" answer gave the unit a pulse rate of 5 beats per minute. The pulse rate was then converted into a monetary amount that was donated to AEF.

(INSERT PICTURES 6 AND 7) Unit 477 in St. Nazianz held a bake sale and raffle during a local Supper Club's annual St. Patrick's Day event and raised almost \$2,500 for AEF!

Unit 348 in DeForest members raffled off gift baskets at their annual holiday party, earning close to \$1,000!

DRUM ROLL PLEASE....Thanks to the many fundraisers and generosity of our members, Wisconsin donated **\$36,950.86** to the national AEF program!!!

[PLEASE CREATE A SLIDE: \$36,950.86!!!]

Thank you to everyone who supported AEF and President Becky's special project!











LEGION AUXILIARY

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

















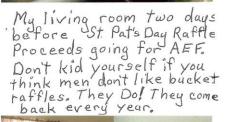
EGION AUXILIARY

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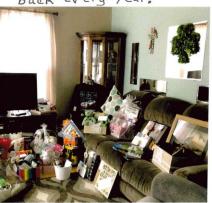






































Auxiliary Emergency Fund

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



\$36,950.86









Committee/Program Reports

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



Jenny Syftestad Wisconsin ALA State Bowling Association





BOWLING



Our 2025 tournament was hosted by Unit 385 in Verona which is my Unit.

We had basket raffles and 50/50 raffles and we had a great time! Thank you all for attending the tournament.

We had 48 ladies bowling team event, 44 bowling doubles, 37 bowling singles and 32 entered all events.

Some ladies come to bowl just doubles and singles or just team events. Come bowl with us in any event you are able to bowl in. We had ladies from Columbia County and Greendale Unit join us this year.

1st Place Team was won by Betty's Foxy Bowlers of Mazomanie with a score of 2619

1st Place Doubles was won by Diana Rittberg and Toni Moegenburg from Grafton with a score of 1288

1st Place Singles was won by Barbara Sigmund from Wisconsin Dells with a score of 820

Barbara Sigmund also took 1st Place in All Events with a score of 2316

These ladies all receive a certificate and a bowling pin that says "Doggone good bowling"



Well I do something for all those Last Place Events also. They also receive a certificate and a bowling pin with it.

However their pin says. "My bowling stinks but I'm nice".

Last Place Team was won by Greendale Unit 416 with a score of 2055

Last Place Doubles was won by Dawn and Juliane from Sparta with a score of 934

Last Place Singles was won by Stacey from Verona with a score of 424

Last Place in All Events was won by Kristy from Rio with a score of 996

Okay now for the competition between the President and Secretary teams.



So here's to you Becky you won the "Golden" bowling Pin this Year!





Next year our tournament is April 11th & 12th at Weston Lanes in Weston hosted by Unit 10 from Wausau.

Get your team together and join us. Talk around all the districts and gather up a foursome from around the state.

Madame, President this concludes my platform remarks.

Show the team pictures however you would like throughout my report. -10 pictures attached





WI ALA State Bowling Association



















WI ALA State Bowling Association



















WI ALA State Bowling Association



#1 Team—Betty's Foxy Bowlers of Mazomanie



#1 Doubles—Diana Rittberg &
Toni Moegenburg of Grafton
#1 Singles—Barbara Sigmund of
Wisconsin Dells
1st Place in All Events—Barbara
Sigmund of Wisconsin Dells











WI ALA State Bowling Association



Last PlaceTeam—Unit 416 of Greendale



Last Place Doubles—Dawn &
Juliane of Sparta
Last Place Singles—Stacey of
Verona
Last Place in All Events—Kristy
of Rio











WI ALA State Bowling Association



Secretary Bonnie's Team— 1885

President Becky's Team—2250

And the Gold Pin goes to
President Becky!!
See you in 2026 on April 11th & 12th
At Weston Lanes in Weston
Hosted by Wausau Unit 10









A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans,

Military, and their Families



Committee/Program Reports

Chaplain and Music Chairman Donna Jensen







Chaplain/Music Floor Report Department Convention – July 17 – 20, 2025 Department of Wisconsin Donna Jensen – Chaplain/Music

Slide # 1

Thank you to the Units from all 12 Districts that sent in reports indicating they worked the Chaplain/Music Program for 2024-2025. District 4 had 86% of their Units working this program followed by 2nd District and 6th District with 70% and 69%. Almost half of the Units in Wisconsin reported working the Chaplain/Music Program.

I also want to thank all the Units who incorporated not only prayers, but also music into their meetings and other events. Music can add a lot to any event.

Slide # 2

Photo #1 (Memorial Service)

Members of Unit 33 of Neenah in District 6 held a Memorial Service at their Spring Conference, led by Chaplain Mary Koslowski. It included a beautiful centerpiece with a cross and poppies made by Char Kiesling.

Photo # 2_(Memorial table)

Unit 477 of Saint Nazianz in District 6 placed a Memorial Table at the church for deceased member Marion Lenz, age 97. She was a charter member and belonged to Unit 477 for 72 years.

Photo # 3 and 4 (Homebound member & cross)

Members of Unit 469 of Marathon in District 8 visited a homebound member and presented her with gifts including a hand carved wooden patriotic cross. They also sent cards to members.

Slide # 3

Photo # 5 (placing flag on grave)

Marion Lenz of Unit 477 of Saint Nazianz in District 6, is pictured placing a flag on her husband's grave at Memorial Day services held with the American Legion Post.

Photo #6 (members at church service)

Members of Unit and Post 477 of Saint Nazianz in District 6, attended church services together on Veteran's Day.

Photo # 7 (Members singing)

Members of Unit and Post 74 of Oconto in District 9, attended a special event at Oconto High School for Memorial Day and held a Memorial Service for veterans that included prayers and Legion Family members singing military songs

Slide #4

I received many reports indicating members sent cards, said prayers and sang songs at meetings and other events. They also attended funerals, draped the charter, called and visited sick members and participated in many joint Legion Family activities.

I wish I had time to tell you everything that was reported but I picked out a few. In <u>District 1</u>, <u>Unit 196 of Delafield</u> held a veteran's block party and <u>Unit 494 of Caledonia</u> was very serious about "Be the One" activities. They had shirts made up and a member had a conversation in a store with someone who almost lost a family member to suicide and they prayed together.

Members of <u>District 2</u>, <u>Unit 67 of Lake Mills</u> did welfare calls and visits and helped with transportation, and chores and provided meals. In <u>District 3</u>, <u>Unit 348 of DeForest</u> attended a Four Chaplains ceremony and <u>Unit 245 of Cross Plains</u> set up a "meal train" for a grieving family. <u>Unit 299 of Hales Corners in **4h District** donated an etched garden stone.</u>

In <u>6th District Unit 234 of Omro</u> donated a book to the local library when a member died. <u>Unit 40 of Bangor in 7th District</u> presented a poppy wreath and grave marker at funerals. In <u>District 8</u>, <u>Unit 263 of New London</u> provided a Memorial Quilt to Post members for Memorial Day and Veterans Day. In <u>9th District</u>, <u>Unit 55 of Hortonville</u> did a Memorial Day program at 6 schools and <u>Unit 524 of White Lake</u> did a poppy presentation for elementary school students.

<u>Unit 186 of Independence in 10th District</u> participated in "Wreaths Across America" and <u>Unit 459 of Eleva</u> participated in "Coffee with Veterans" weekly at the Post. <u>Unit 431 of Three Lakes in 11th District</u> held a Memorial Day celebration with the High School Band and a Veterans Day dinner with the American Legion. <u>Unit 132 of Siren in 12th District</u> had an annual summer picnic and Christmas party.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks. There are no resolutions or recommendations.

May I do a Presentation?

Slide # 5

I received one excellent Unit Prayer Book, submitted by Unit 185 – Grantsburg – District 12 by Chaplain Terry Giles.

I have a certificate and a small gift for Chaplain Terry Giles for the winning prayer book and I will return them after this convention session.

(If Terry Giles is not present, give to 12th District President Barb McDaniel and ask her to return it to the Unit Chaplain.)

Presentation of President's Prayer Book to Becky Mueller

I have one more presentation.

It was my privilege and honor to put together a Prayer Book for President Becky Mueller composed of items sent in by Legion Family members from all over the State of Wisconsin this year.

Becky, after the convention is over, you deserve a break. Please relax and enjoy all the prayers, poems and inspirational pieces submitted by your members. It was a pleasure to serve as your Chaplain this year.





Chaplain/Music

- Thank you to all 12 Districts for reporting working Chaplain/Music Programs
- District 4 had 86%, District 2 had 70% and District 6 had 69% of Units reporting participation
- Almost half of the Units in Wisconsin reported working the Chaplain/Music Program
- Thank you to all the Units who incorporated prayers and music in their meetings and events







LEGION AUXILIARY

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



Chaplain/Music



Members of Unit 33, Neenah, District 6 holding a Memorial Service at their Spring Conference.

Memorial table at church for deceased Member of Unit 477, St. Nazianz, District 6.







LEGION AUXILIARY

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



Chaplain/Music





Members of Unit 469 of Marathon in District 8 visited a homebound member and presented her with gifts including a hand carved wooden patriotic cross. They also sent cards to members.







EGION AUXILIARY

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



Chaplain/Music

Marion Lenz of
Unit 477, St. Nazianz,
District 6, placing a
flag on her
husband's grave at a
joint Legion Family
Memorial Day
Service.



Members of Unit 477, St. Nazianz, District 6 attending church on Veterans Day.





Members of Unit 74, Oconto, District 9 singing at a Memorial Day service for deceased veterans.











Chaplain/Music

- <u>Dist. 1</u>, Unit <u>196 Delafield</u> Veteran's block party: Unit <u>494</u>
 <u>Caledonia</u> "Be the One": <u>Dist. 2</u>, Unit <u>67 Lake Mills</u> Welfare visits, meals, chores
- <u>Dist. 3</u>, Unit <u>245 Cross Plains</u> meal train: <u>Dist. 4</u>, Unit <u>299 Hales</u>
 <u>Corners</u> etched garden stone: <u>Dist. 6</u>, Unit <u>234 Omro</u> donated books to library
- :<u>Dist. 7</u> Unit <u>49 Bangor</u> poppy wreath: <u>Dist. 8</u>, Unit <u>263 New</u>
 <u>London</u> Memorial Quilts: <u>Dist. 9</u>, Unit <u>55 Hortonville</u> Mem Day presentations at 6 schools; Unit <u>524 White Lake</u> poppy presentation to students
- <u>Dist. 10</u>, Unit <u>186 Independence</u> "Wreaths Across America"; Unit <u>459 Eleva</u> "Coffee with Veterans" <u>Dist. 11</u>, Unit <u>431 Three Lakes</u> Mem. Day with Band
- Dist. 12, Unit 132 Siren annual summer picnic & Christmas party











Chaplain/Music

- One Unit Prayer Book received
- Submitted by Unit 185, Grantsburg,
 District 12
- Chaplain Terry Giles
- Congratulations!!







Committee/Program Reports

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



Joyce Endres
Children & Youth









American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Department of Wisconsin

2024-2025 Children and Youth Year-End Report Joyce E. Endres, Chairman

SLIDE 1: Include ALA Logo and Becky's pin

Wisconsin ALA members served from the depths of their hearts while supporting Children and Youth Program initiatives.

SLIDE 2:

Slide Title: Every success story begins with a vision.

The Children and Youth Program Vision included four focus areas as outlined in the 2024-2025 Program Engagement Plan

SLIDE 3:

Slide Title: Focus 1: GOOD DEED AWARD (Insert Picture)

Units submitted nine (9) Good Deed Awards.



SLIDE 4:

Slide Title: Focus 2: YOUTH HERO AWARD

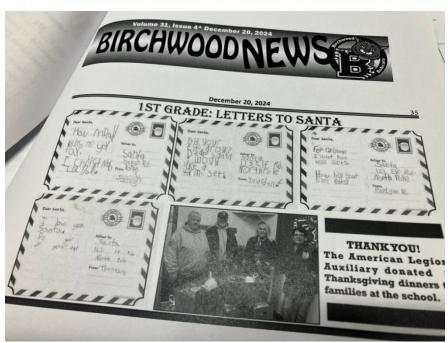
More on this focus area later.

Focus 3: PUBLIC RELATIONS Insert Pictures



PURPLE UP

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY 3360
The Waunakee American Legion
Auxiliary Unit 360 hosted and
coordinated with 10 American Legion
Auxiliary Units on March 16 to show
support for military children and raise
awareness about their sacrifices during
the month-long Purple Up campaign.
The 33 participants filled envelopes
with donated money, supplies and 500
Kids Meal cards provided by Culver's
Corporation. Purple symbolizes a
combination of the colors of each
branch of the U.S. military



Slide 5

Slide Title: Focus 4: THE AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELL-BEING FOUNDATION

\$3,676 (make numbers large)

SLIDE 6: Insert Pictures

Slide Title: Working together as an American Legion Family





SLIDE 7: Insert Pictures

Slide Title: Working together as an American Legion Family





SLIDE 8: (Inserts Pictures)

Slide Title: Initiatives crossed various ALA Program lines

Sponsored 504 - 2025 ALA Badger Girl State Delegates Sponsored Five (5) 2025 Badger Boy State delegates.





SLIDE 9: (Make numbers large and insert picture of ALF)

\$2,975

ALF Dog (American Legion Family)



SLIDE 10: Insert Picture

Slide Title: Junior members distributed poppies.



Page **6** of **19**

SLIDE 11: Insert pictures

Slide Title: Auxiliary members make a difference!





SLIDE 12 Insert Picture

Slide Title: Promoted Americanism and Patriotism



SLIDE 13. Insert Picture

Slide Title: Four Generations - Activities for disabled youth



SLIDE 14

Slide Title: Little Miss Poppy and Poppy Queen



SLIDE 15: Insert Pictures

Slide Title: Cards to Veterans and Teachers







SLIDE 16:

Slide Title: 10 For Education



SLIDE 17:

Slide Title: Holiday Parties All Seasons ~ **Easter**



SLIDE 18:

Slide Title: Holiday Parties All Seasons - Halloween





SLIDE 19:

Slide Title: Holiday Parties All Seasons - Christmas





SLIDE 20:

Slide Title: Focus 2: YOUTH HERO AWARDS

Unit 36, West Bend: Saved her mom who was passed out from a stroke.



Unit 71, Pewaukee: Saved a person from drowning when they fell out of his boat. *NO PICTURE at this time – still trying to get one!*

SLIDE 21:

Slide Title: Focus 2: YOUTH HERO AWARDS

Unit 171, Union Grove: Stopped a bus when the driver had a medical incident



SLIDE 22

Slide Title: Focus 2: YOUTH HERO AWARDS

Unit 121, River Falls: Saved his father from a black bear attack.



PLAY VIDEO

SLIDE 22:

Members, every youth and child you touched this year and will in the future build kind children and youth as strong future leaders of America and the American Legion Auxiliary.





Children & Youth





American Legion Auxiliary (ALA)
Department of Wisconsin
2024-2025 Children and Youth
Year-End Report
Joyce Endres, Chairman



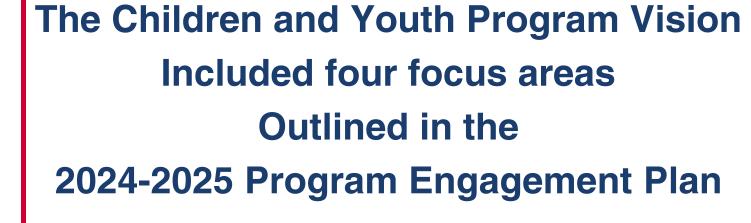




Children & Youth

Every success story begins with a vision.

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families













Children & Youth

Focus 1: GOOD DEED AWARD



Units submitted 9
Good Deed
Awards.







Children & Youth Focus 2: YOUTH HERO AWARD



Unit 36, West Bend: Saved her mom who was passed out from a stroke





Children & Youth Focus 2: YOUTH HERO AWARD

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families





Unit 121, River Falls:
Saved his father
From a black bear attack







Children & Youth Focus 2: YOUTH HERO AWARD

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families





Unit 171, Union Grove:
Stopped a bus when
The driver had a
Medical incident





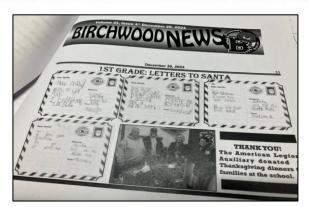


Children & Youth Focus 3: PUBLIC RELATIONS



PURPLE UP

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY 3360
The Waunakee American Legion
Auxiliary Unit 360 hosted and
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branch of the U.S. military











Children & Youth Focus 4: THE AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELL-BEING FOUNDATION

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families















Children & Youth

Working together as an American Legion Family













Children & Youth

Working together as an American Legion Family









Children & Youth

Initiatives crossed various ALA Program lines



ALA Units also sponsored
5 delegates to the
2025 Session of
Badger Boys State

ALA Units sponsored 504 delegates to the 2025 session of ALA Badger Girls State









Children & Youth

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families





\$2,975

A.L.F. Dog
American Legion Family











Children & Youth Junior members distributed poppies.











Children & Youth Auxiliary members make a difference!

Military Child Table





Purple Up











Children & Youth Promoted Americanism and Patriotism

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families









Children & Youth

Four Generations – Activities for Disabled Youth

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families











A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans,

Military, and their Families



Children & Youth Little Miss Poppy and Poppy Queen











Children & Youth Cards to Veterans and Teachers









Children & Youth 10 For Education













Children & Youth Holiday Parties All Seasons - Easter









Children & Youth Holiday Parties All Seasons - Halloween

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families













Children & Youth Holiday Parties All Seasons - Christmas

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

















Children & Youth



Members, every youth and child you touched this year and will in the future, build kind children and youth as strong future leaders of America and the American Legion Auxiliary.





Committee/Program Reports

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



Sandy Mack Community Service





Department Convention-Community Service Report Submitted by:

Department of Wisconsin/Community Service Chair Sandy Mack

- Wisconsin has approximately 346 units.
- 156 Units reported Community Service Hours.
- 151,508 hours of community service served.
- \$203,966 reported as money spent on Community Service activities/projects.

Looking over the reports I received and several FB pages, shown in the power point is just a touch of the exciting events/fundraisers held by units across Wisconsin. Pictures are worth a, 1,000 words. This is a great opportunity to promote this great organization along with the entire Legion Family, while providing community service.







District 1 volunteered at local food pantries, held a block party, duck race, and a beer/wine walk. District 2 held a cake and ice cream social, bingo, waffle bar, chili cookoff, car show, craft fair and fish fries. District 3 held card parties for the community, had a food stand at an orchard, community

breakfast, and visited nursing homes. District 4 volunteered at church and provided daycare. District 6 held a chili supper, Swiss steak dinner, served food at the local farmer's market and worked on the Damascus Road Project on the fight against human trafficking. District 7 had a craft and bake sale, blood drives and provided free meals at the local church. District 8 provided transportation for the elderly, put together school Christmas store where the children can get select gifts for family members. District 9 assisted with community picnics, meals on wheels, volunteered at the food pantry, humane society and had a deer hunters bake sale. District 10 provided a Red Cross lunch, operation Christmas child, held puzzle exchange, purchased first aid kits for the homeless and youth Christmas stockings. District 11 made 60 corsages for ladies in nursing homes for Mother's Day, coach junior high school, clean up the community and provided funeral lunches. District 12 worked concession stands.

I am honored to provide a certificate for the most volunteer hours to District 1, Unit #375 of Mukwonago. 28 members reported community service hours reaching 18,099 and money spent on community service hours of \$14,049. They worked at the Maxwell Street Days having a food fundraiser, once a month they do a raffle fundraiser at the local bowling alley and adopted 2 local families for Christmas.

District 2 Unit #355 of Grafton had 28 volunteers 1509 hours and spent \$10,791 of community service hours. They held a Makers Market, had brat fries, Las Vegas night and a Ladies Night Out, where they participated as a vendor in the Grafton Chamber of Commerce, their theme was "Come on Barbie, Let's Go Party" Members dressed as their best version of a Barbie Boot Camp drill sergeant, they handed out trinkets and had hula hooping.

District 1 Unit #294 of Hartland had 15 members volunteer 137 hours and spent \$990 on Community Service Projects. Every year they do a

Halloween haunted bus for the Village of Hartland, this has become such a hit the Village now requests it. This event brings many families to the post. Members decorate the bus and dress up and the kids go through the haunted bus. They hand out candy and hot chocolate.

It doesn't make a difference how big or small your unit is. Every member and every hour counts. The number of hours and funds spent putting giving back to community, is truly one of the most rewarding feelings we may have.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE GOD BLESS AMERICAN

This concludes my report I have no resolutions.





- Wisconsin has approximately 346 units.
- 156 Units reported Community Service Hours.
- 151,508 hours of community service served.
- \$203,966 reported as money spent on Community Service activities/projects.





















LEGION AUXILIARY

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

























































Community ServiceAwards

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



 28 members reported 18,099 service hours



 \$14,049 spent on Community Service Projects





Community Service Awards

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

- Unit #355, Grafton, District 2
- 28 volunteers reported 1,509 service hours



\$10,791 spent on Community Service
 Project







Community Service Awards

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



15 members reported 137 service hours



 \$990 spent on Community Service Projects







Committee/Program Reports

Constitution and Bylaws Diana Sirovina







CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

CONVENTION REMARKS 2025

Diana Sirovina, Chairman

Madam President,

What do your governing documents say? A simple question, yet one that was repeated many, many times this past year.

Units, counties, and districts all over the department spent countless hours reviewing their governing documents and discussing changes with their members. Many contacted this chairman with an assortment of interesting questions.

There seemed to be an abundance of questions regarding elections: Can we change our elections to fall because it's better for our members? Can we elect our officers every two years instead of every year? If we don't change officers, do we still have to have an election? Can we have term limits for officers?

Then there were questions about meetings. Can we hold our meetings someplace other than the Post? Do we have to meet during the summer? Who can cancel our meeting? How many members do we have to have a meeting to do any business?

After all the time spent reviewing and discussing their options, units, counties, and districts came to realize the significance of their governing documents. Then the most important question was asked: How do we change the documents?

Many units, counties, and districts did update their documents and submitted them to be reviewed for compliance with the National and Department documents.

Through the years, the Constitution and Bylaws committee has always stressed the importance and power of having properly written and regularly reviewed and updated governing documents at all levels of the organization. Keeping our governing documents up to date is the key to a healthy organization that functions as a team to support our veterans, military, and their families.

We need to remember that our up-to-date governing documents are essential to our continuing success. It is important that all our members know what is in these documents so when all those questions arise, they know where to find the answers. So, I leave you with that simple question: "What do your governing documents say?"

Madam President, this concludes this portion of my remarks.

Madam President,

We do have proposed amendments to our Constitution and Bylaws.

The Constitution and Bylaws Convention Committee met via Zoom meetings to discuss amendments to our governing documents. In accordance with our Constitution, Article IX, Section 1, and our Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1, those proposed amendments were distributed to all units 30 days prior to this convention. You also received a copy in your packets when you arrived here.

On behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws Convention Committee, I move the adoption of the proposed changes to the Department of Wisconsin Constitution and Bylaws as distributed.

Madam president, I move to authorize the Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer to correct punctuation, capitalization, and such technical changes as may be necessary for the accuracy and readability of the documents.

Madam President, may I introduce the members of the Constitution & Bylaws Convention Committee?

Sandy Mack

Barbara Mc Daniel

Theresa Schindler

Mary Townsend

Madam President, this concludes my report.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 2025

Page 49: Proposed Amendment to Constitution, Article V, Department Executive Board, add new Section 4, re-number remaining sections.

CURRENT WORDING: None

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: **Section 4.** Special meetings of the Department Executive Board may be called by the Department President, by a majority of the voting members of the Department Executive Board, or by written request of not less than six (6) voting members of the Department Executive Board.

Rationale: Clarify how special meetings of the Department Executive Board may be called.

Page 50: Proposed Amendment to Constitution, Article VII-Department Convention, Section 2

CURRENT WORDING: **Section 2.** The annual Convention shall be composed of delegates and alternates from each Unit. Each Unit shall be entitled to two delegates and two alternates for the Unit itself, and an additional delegate and alternate for each fifty members or major faction thereof which it shall have in excess of fifty members, whose District dues have been paid, and whose State and National dues have been received by the Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer at least thirty days prior to the date of the Convention. No Unit shall be entitled to be represented unless it has at least ten members whose District, Department and National dues for the current year have been paid.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: **Section 2.** The Annual Convention shall be composed of delegates and alternates from each Unit. Each unit shall be entitled to two delegates and two alternates for the Unit itself, and an additional delegate and alternate for each **thirty** members or major fraction thereof which it shall have in excess of **thirty** members, whose District dues have been paid at least thirty days prior to the starting date of the Convention. **The Department Headquarters Unit 2930 shall have no representation.**

Rationale: Lowering the number for additional delegates would encourage more attendance at Department Convention. Removing the last sentence relates to the change enacted at the 2023 National Convention that removes the requirement of having 10 members to maintain a charter. The remainder of the sentence is being removed as units do not pay department or national dues. Department Headquarters unit has no officers or means to select delegates.

Page 50: Proposed Amendment to Constitution, Article VIII-National Convention, add new Section 3, re-number remaining section.

CURRENT WORDING: None

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: **Section 3**. National Committee Chairmen (Americanism, American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Children & Youth, Community Service, Constitution & Bylaws, Education, Finance, Junior Activities, Leadership, Legislative, Membership, National Security, Poppy, Public Relations, Risk & Compliance, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation) shall be delegates-at-large to the National Convention, unless already a delegate-at-large. Vote to be exercised with their departments.

Rationale: This was adopted at the 2024 National Convention and needs to be added to the Department document.

Page 50: Proposed Amendment to Constitution, Article IX, Amendments, add new Section 3.

CURRENT WORDING: None

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: **Section 3.** This Constitution shall be automatically amended to conform to the National Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Rationale: Adding this section keeps our governing document current.

Page 52: Proposed Amendment to Bylaws, Article II, Duties and Powers of Officers, Section 1, re-write parts of section.

CURRENT WORDING: **Section 1**. The Department President shall be the chief executive of the department and preside at all meetings of the department convention and the Department Executive Board; appoint or hire a parliamentarian; appoint members of standing committees; create such other committees and appoint members thereon as deemed advisable; appoint all officers not otherwise provided for, with the approval of the Department Executive Board; serve as ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of Finance and perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office; be the official representative of the department with authority to designate a department Vice President or other qualified member to represent the department at public ceremonies and meetings.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: **Section 1**. The Department President shall be the chief executive of the department and preside at all meetings of the department convention and the Department Executive Board; **sign contracts and other legal documents that require the signature of the chief executive of the department**; appoint or hire a parliamentarian; appoint members of standing committees; create such other committees and appoint members thereon as deemed advisable; appoint all officers not otherwise provided for, with the approval of the Department Executive Board; serve as ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of Finance and perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office; be the official representative of the department with authority to designate a department Vice President to represent the department at public ceremonies and meetings.

Rationale: Add wording to clarify additional job duties that already exist. Remove "qualified member" in last sentence as there is no criteria for defining a qualified member.

Page 52: Proposed Amendment to Bylaws, Article II, Duties and Powers of Officers, Section 1, #1, #2, #3, #4, re-write entire section.

CURRENT WORDING:

- 1. The Department President shall, not less than 90 days prior to the annual department convention, appoint a Constitution and Bylaws Committee consisting of the department chair of Constitution and Bylaws and four members chosen from the delegates. This committee shall meet prior to the opening of the convention for consideration of all amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, which have been submitted up to the time of said meeting. The department parliamentarian shall serve as advisor.
- 2. The Department President shall, not less than 90 days prior to the annual department convention, appoint a Standing Rules Committee consisting of the department chair of Standing Rules and two members chosen from the delegates. This committee shall meet prior to the opening of the convention for consideration of all amendments to the Standing Rules, which have been submitted up to the time of said meeting.
- 3. The Department President shall at least seven days before the date of the annual department convention, appoint a Credentials Committee consisting of a chair and the twelve district presidents. The Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall furnish them with certified copies of the list of such delegates and the number of delegates that each unit is entitled to, prior to the opening of the convention, and such committee shall prepare a report to be given at the time specified in the order of business.
- 4. The Department President shall, not less than 30 days prior to the annual department convention, appoint a Resolutions Committee consisting of five members chosen from the delegates.

- a. Resolutions presented by an individual member must be approved by the unit or district to which the member belongs. Resolutions must be received at department by June 1. Copies of these resolutions shall be transmitted to units not less than 30 days before department convention.
- b. Any resolution not approved by a unit or district, or when the district conference is held after June 1, must be approved by the appropriate department chair of the program to which the resolution pertains. The department chair will submit approved resolutions to the Resolutions Committee for consideration.
- c. The Resolutions Committee will forward any approved resolutions with a financial impact to the Finance Committee for their approval.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

- 1. The Department President shall, not less than 90 days prior to the annual Department Convention appoint the following convention committees:
 - a. Constitution and Bylaws
 - i. Committee shall include of the current Department Constitution and Bylaws Chairman, and four additional members.
 - ii. This committee shall meet prior to the convention for consideration of amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, which have been submitted up to the time of said meeting.
 - iii. The department parliamentarian shall serve as advisor.

b. Standing Rules

- i. Committee shall include the current Department Standing Rules Chairman, and two additional members.
- ii. This committee shall meet prior to the convention for consideration of amendments to the Standing Rules, which have been submitted up to the time of said meeting.
- iii. The department parliamentarian shall serve as advisor.

c. Credentials

- i. Committee shall consist of a Chair and the 12 District Presidents.
- ii. The Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall furnish this Committee with the number of verified delegates that each unit is entitled to, and names of registered delegates prior to the convention.
- iii. The committee shall present a report at the Department Convention at the time specified in the order of business.

d. Resolutions

- i. This committee shall consist of a chair and four additional members.
- ii. Resolutions presented by an individual member must be approved by the unit or district to which the member belongs.
- iii. Resolutions must be received at Department by June 1.
- iv. Copies of all resolutions shall be transmitted to units not less than 30 days before department convention.
- v. Any resolution not approved by a unit or district, or when the district conference is held after June 1, must be submitted to the appropriate department chair of the program to which the resolution pertains. The department chair will forward resolutions to the Resolutions Committee with a recommendation to approve, reject, or revise.
- vi. The Resolutions Committee will forward any approved resolutions with a financial impact to the Finance Committee for their approval.

Rationale: Updated for clarity

Page 53: Proposed Amendment to Bylaws: Article II, Duties and Powers of Officers, Section 5

CURRENT WORDING: **Section 5**. The Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall record proceedings of the department convention and the Department Executive Board meetings; keep all records of the department; transmit reports and bulletins of all department standing committees and send out all literature and calls of meetings; be the custodian of the funds of the department and account for the same; sign checks in disbursing the funds of the organization; and make reports upon the condition of the Department treasury when called for by the Department President. To external audiences only, the title shall be Executive Director.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: **Section 5**. The Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall record proceedings of the department convention and the Department Executive Board meetings; keep all records of the department; **distribute** reports and bulletins of department standing committees and send out literature and calls of meetings; be the custodian of the funds of the department and account for the same; sign checks in disbursing the funds of the organization; make reports upon the condition of the department treasury when called for by the Department President; **and sign contracts and other legal documents as needed.** To external audiences only, the title shall be Executive Director.

Rationale: Add wording to clarify additional job duties that already exist.

Page 53: Proposed Amendment to Bylaws, Article III-National Convention, Section 1, #3. Delete section and re-number remaining sections.

CURRENT WORDING: 3. Any national chair or committee member whose expenses are paid by the national organization shall fill delegate positions available after subsections 1 and 2 are met. If there is no available opening, these individuals would be placed on the alternate list with priority after the district presidents.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, SECTION WILL BE DELETED.

Rationale: This section will be removed due to change at National Convention 2024 making National Chairmen delegates-at-large.

Page 54: Proposed Amendment to Bylaws, Article V-Standing Committees, Section 1.

CURRENT WORDING: **Section 1.** The Department President shall name such committee chairs as deemed advisable, subject to the ratification of the Department Executive Board. There shall be the following standing committees: Americanism, American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State, WALA State Bowling Association, Children & Youth/Liaison to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Community Service, Constitution & Bylaws, Education, Finance, Fundraising, Junior Activities, Leadership, Legislative, Membership, National Security, Office Policy, Past Presidents Parley/Cavalcade of Memories, Poppy, Liaison to The American Legion Marketing & Communications Committee, Public Relations, Standing Rules and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: **Section 1.** The Department President shall name such committee chairs as deemed advisable, subject to the ratification of the Department Executive Board. There shall be the following standing committees: Americanism, American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State, WALA State Bowling Association, Children & Youth/Liaison to The American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation, Community Service, Constitution & Bylaws, Education, Finance, Fundraising, Junior Activities, Leadership, Legislative, Membership, National Security, Office Policy, Past Presidents Parley/Cavalcade of Memories, Poppy, Liaison to The American Legion, **Department of Wisconsin** Marketing & Communications Committee, **Liaison to The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin Camp American Legion Committee**, Public Relations, Standing Rules and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.

Rationale: This is a recent addition to have an Auxiliary member attending the Camp American Legion Committee meetings. Update name of Child Welfare Foundation to Child Well-Being Foundation, per American Legion change.

Page 55: Proposed Amendment to Bylaws, Article V, Standing Committees, Section 2, add new #3, re-number remaining section.

CURRENT WORDING: None

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: It shall be the responsibility of the Finance Committee to review and approve the annual audit or financial review.

Rationale: Add wording to clarify additional job duties that already exist

Page 55: Proposed Amendment to Bylaws, Article V, Standing Committees, Section 3, new paragraph 1 and 2

CURRENT WORDING: none

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: 1. The Office Policy Committee shall oversee the operations of the Department Headquarters Office, working closely with the Department Executive Secretary/Treasurer to ensure prompt attention to matters relating to our mission and provide oversight to ensure established office policies are being followed.

2. The Office Police Committee shall be responsible for periodically reviewing Wisconsin Non-profit Statutes for Department compliance.

Rationale: Add wording to clarify additional job duties that already exist

Page 55: Proposed Amendment to Bylaws, Article V-Standing Committees, Section 9

CURRENT WORDING: **Section 9.** The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee shall be composed of four members to be appointed by the Department President. The four members include a Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chair, Service to Veterans Chair, Director of Hospital Volunteers, and Homeless Women Veterans Chair.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: **Section 9.** The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee shall be composed of **five** members to be appointed by the Department President. The five members include a Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chair, Service to Veterans Chair, Director of Hospital Volunteers, Homeless Women Veterans Chair, **and Christmas Gift Shop Chair.**

Rationale: In other places in the Red Book Programs section, as well as the Standing Rules, Christmas Gift Shop is referred to under the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee.

Page 55: Proposed Amendment to Bylaws, Article V-Standing Committees, Section 11

CURRENT WORDING: **Section 11.** There shall be a Publication Editor appointed by the Department President to serve as a liaison to The American Legion Marketing & Communications Committee.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: **Section 11.** There shall be a Publication Editor appointed by the Department President to serve as a liaison to The American Legion, **Department of Wisconsin**, Marketing & Communications Committee **who shall attend meetings at their own expense.**

Rationale: Clarification

Page 55: Proposed Amendment to Bylaws, Article V-Standing Committees, add new Section 12, re-number remaining sections.

CURRENT WORDING: None

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: **Section 12.** There shall be a liaison to The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin Camp American Legion Committee, who shall attend meetings at their own expense.

Rationale: This is a recent addition to have an Auxiliary member attending the Camp American Legion Committee meetings

Page 56: Proposed Amendment to Bylaws, Article VII-Unit Organization, Section 4, #3

CURRENT WORDING: 3. All units shall submit a copy of their bylaws to department headquarters for approval.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: 3. All units shall submit a copy of their bylaws to **the Department** Constitution and Bylaws Chairman to review for compliance with National and Department documents.

Rationale: Recommended change suggested by Professional Registered Parliamentarian

Page 56: Proposed Amendment to Bylaws, Article VII-Unit Organization, Section 7

CURRENT WORDING: **Section 7.** Units must hold at least four (4) business meetings each year to conform to the charter.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: **Section 7.** Units shall hold at least four (4) business meetings each year.

Rationale: Upon review of the charter application and unit charter, no reference is made to the number of meetings a unit must hold.

Page 56: Proposed Amendment to Bylaws, Article VIII-Discipline, Section 1.

CURRENT WORDING: **Section 1.** For any violation of the national or department constitution and bylaws and/or standing rules by any department officer of the Auxiliary, the Department Executive Board may remove that individual from office.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: **Section 1:** For any violation of the national or department constitution, bylaws and/or standing rules by any member of the Department Executive Board, the Department Executive Board may suspend that member from participation in board activities by two-thirds vote at a meeting duly called for that purpose.

Rationale: Clarification

Page 57: Proposed Amendment to Bylaws, Article XII Amendments

CURRENT WORDING: None

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: **Section 3.** These Bylaws shall be automatically amended to conform to the National Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Rationale: Adding this section keeps our governing document current.



Committee/Program Reports

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



Diane Weggen Education



Through the American Legion Auxiliary Education Program, units and members worked "Leading the Way" "Serving from the Heart" with purpose and passion. Classroom activities, literacy programs, interaction with veterans and community organizations, financial assistance, scholarship and military awareness are all part of our Education Program.

When thinking of possible ideas/activities to share from the reports I've read, it was difficult to determine what I should highlight because Units promoted the clearly defined Education Program components in ways that are making a positive difference in their communities.

- **1. Give 10 to Education** supplies for the classroom or donations paying lunch fees or field trips expenses and part of Give 10 is to
- Assist Needy Students/Military Families backpacks filled with school items, grocery cards or clothing items for a career closet or winter weather

Plymouth 243 Enhancing the Lives of Students through Panther Fit Sharing/Career Closet

Birchwood 379 Enhancing the Lives of Students through Backpack Pals

- 3. Recognize and thank all who work to educate our young people during American Education Week and Teacher Appreciation Week. Cards & treats top the list
- 4. Build respect for veterans and understanding their sacrifices Veterans in Community Schools

Lone Rock Unit 383 Coordinated classroom visit with 3 Vets Roll veterans whom the students had sent letters.

Sharing "the work soldiers did to keep us safe" Marathon Unit 469

- 5. Award Scholarships Proud to announce the two winners of National scholarships: West Salem Unit 51's Emily Fechner received one of ten "Member Loyalty" \$2,500 scholarships. Chippewa Unit 77's Eric Andreo received one of 15 National President's "Children of Warriors" \$5,000 scholarships. 43% of WI Units reported awarding \$102,
- 6. **Advocate for Legislation** supporting education and veterans; participating/promoting activities that afford students opportunities to learn about and/or participate in government. By promoting Girls and Boys State, Legion's County Youth Government Program, and student trips to Washington, D.C. as integral parts of their ALA Education program, Saint Cloud Unit 478 assisted with Legion County Youth Government Day. Mt Hope Unit 229 promoted the school's 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C. Students spoke about their participation in government activities including job shadowing politicians and aides.

and finally,

7. Donate to the M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan Fund

WI is the only state that has this interest-free loan program which is available to Auxiliary members. **More District 10** units donated to the fund this year than any other District.

"Serving Our Veterans, Military and Each Other from the Depths of Our Hearts" empowered education in Wisconsin. Be proud of what you and Auxiliary members did throughout the state to shape brighter futures for students and to strengthen our communities and our country.

Madam President, this concludes my report. There are no resolutions or recommendations. Thank you for this appointment.



EducationGive 10 to Education

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families





School Supply Drive Brackett Unit 550





Items for Class Project Fall Creek Unit 376



School Supplies Neenah Unit 33













Education Needy Students and Military Families



Plymouth Unit 243 donating money, clothing and hygiene items to the school's Panther Fit Sharing/Career Closet









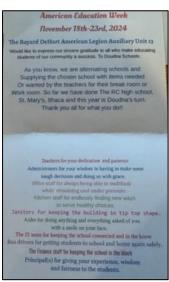


Education

American Education Week & Teacher Appreciation Week







Richland Center Unit 13 sends cards to area schools and picks a different school each to receive a \$200 gift card to purchase items for their work or break rooms.











Education

American Education Week & Teacher Appreciation Week





Marathon Unit 469's Motto "It's cool to be Patriotic" Treats for staff.











Education Veterans in Community Schools



Bangor Unit 40 invited Veterans to share experiences and answer questions in the classroom.





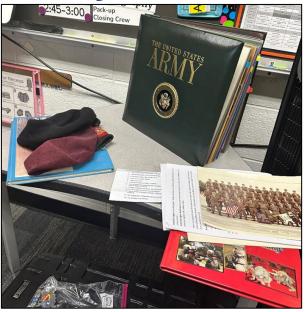






Education Veterans in Community Schools





Marathon Unit 469 President Blume talked to 3rd graders about her husband and son being soldiers and "the work they did to keep us safe."











Education Scholarships

Thanks to the 2025 Judging Team

Jackie Rowley
Pat Plewa
Kristina LeCloux
Theresa Schindler
Diane Burkhalter
Donella Christianson









Education Scholarships



Joint Auxiliary/American Legion scholarship. Dan Cady - Legion Scholarship Chair, Keri Mckee - Scholarship winner, Flo Bayer - Auxiliary Unit 245
President, Steve Zannon - Legion Post 245 Commander.









Education Scholarships



Mukwonago Unit 375 awarded five \$1,000 scholarships.











Education



Loyal Unit 175 hosted a 4-H meeting where members decorated ornaments honoring Post Legionnaires.









Education Legislative Advocacy

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



- ALA Badger Girls State and Badger Boys State
- Legion's County Youth Government Program
- Student trips to Washington, D.C.





Education

M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan Fund

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

30 units donated \$2,775

8 Ioan recipients paid back \$7,230

Serving From The Heart

Totaling \$10,005 available for loans this coming year









Committee/Program Reports

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



Diane Duscheck Finance





Committee/Program Reports

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



Diane Duscheck Finance

(and Chatty)













Finance

POPPIES

Income from poppies: \$172,400

Poppy sales to units/departments: \$71,100

20% of poppy profit sent to Department: \$101,300

Poppy expenses: \$64,444

Poppy Makers' income: \$25,500

Poppy shop staff wages: \$2,444

Purchase of poppy kits: \$36,500











Finance

POPPIES

How much does it cost to make a poppy?

Small poppy: 23.7 cents each

Large poppy: \$1.512 each

How much does ALA sell poppies for?

Small poppy: 25 cents each

Large poppy: \$1.65 each











Finance

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

 2024-2025 Department President's Project



Donations of \$36,950













Finance Pass-Through Donations

Fiscal Year Ending May 31, 2025	Donations
VA Hospitals & Vet Homes	\$ 93,748
National Auxiliary Emergency Fund	\$ 36,950
Fisher Houses - Milwaukee & Minneapolis	\$ 16,513
Veterans Creative Arts	\$ 9,118
ALA Foundation	\$ 4,017
Surgical Assistance Pillows	\$ 1,600
Am Legion Child Well-Being Foundation	\$ 3,776
Dogs 2 Dog Tags	\$ 7,449
20% Poppy Fund	\$ 101,294
TOTALS excluding Poppy Profit	\$173,171
TOTALS including Poppy Profit	\$274,465









Finance

Camp American Legion

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families







- Camp American Legion
 - Will begin theirCapital Campaign











Finance

Camp American Legion













Finance

Sweepstakes

- 2025 Department Fall Sweepstakes
 - Netted \$30,530.61
 - Usually goes out about Labor Day
- Berlin Journal Newspapers Fundraiser
 - 2025 profit was \$44,436 (as of April 25)
 - Will be in Spring Newspaper



The American Legion Auxiliary will continue with both fundraisers in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.











Finance

2024-2025 BUDGET	REVENUE	EXPENSES	VARIANCE
Bowling	\$3,148	\$3,148	\$0
HS & Angeline Lewis	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$0
Past Presidents Parley	\$2,500	\$3,100	(\$600)
M. Louise Wilson	\$5,740	\$4,600	\$1,140
Temporarily Restricted	\$64,000	\$64,000	\$0
Poppy Shop	\$69,882	\$69,882	\$0
Children & Youth	\$72,159	\$72,159	\$0
VA&R	\$172,897	\$176,856	(\$3,959)
General	\$423,003	\$441,844	(\$18,841)
TOTAL:	\$824,329	\$846,589	(\$22,960)











Finance

Audit Financial Accounts Yearly

Audit to be done by 2 or 3 people but NOT treasurer

Checkbook, receipts, bank statements, and invoices must support one another

TWO signatories on the bank mandate

DON'T sign blank checks

NO petty cash

Internal Financial Controls

Audit Checklist for Units

The executive committee has a "fiduciary" responsibility for the finances of the organization and needs to ensure proper controls are in place.

If you check "No" for any question you may need to re-evaluate your procedures.

Guidelines/Recommendations

Accounting requirements

Are proper books and records kept of all transactions?

Budgets

Are annual budgets prepared and approved by the DEC or unit to cover both income and expenditures?

Collection income

Are public collections undertaken within legal requirements for public collections? Are collection boxes (ex: Poppy Cans) numbered & record kept of their allocation and return?

Fund-raising events or campaigns

Are records maintained for each fund-raising event?

Are comparable controls maintained for receipts as for other donation income?

Banking and custody procedures

Are incoming receipts banked promptly and regularly (at least weekly)? Is the safe custody ensured for all valuables held on premises?

Are keys to the safe or cash box signed for?

Checks of income records

Are regular checks made to ensure records are accurate?
Are checks made by someone other than the original recording officer?
Are any restrictions placed on donated income?







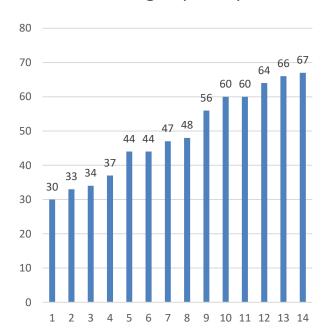


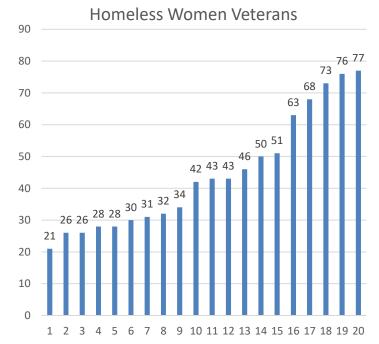


Finance

Veterans Requiring Assistance

Emergency Family Assistance















Finance

Assistance to Veterans, Military, and Families

- Veterans & Family Assistance
 - Income: \$12,169.36
 - Expensed: \$46,031.84
- Active Duty & Family Assistance
 - Income: \$4,825.00
 - Expensed: \$4,825.00

- Homeless Women Veterans
 - Income: \$67,363.45
 - Expensed: \$29,465.53











Finance

Finance Committee Members

- Kathy Wollmer, elected member and vice chairman
- Joanie Dickerson, elected member
- Maggie Geiger, Alternate NEC
- Diana Sirovina, Office Policy Chairman
- Diane Duscheck, elected member and chairman
- Becky Mueller, Department President
- Bonnie Dorniak, Executive Secretary-Treasurer
- Linda Cason, Bookkeeper
- Kiril Kustief, Edward Jones Financial Advisor
- Mindy; Auditors Miller, Brussell, Ebben & Glaeske LLC











Committee/Program Reports

ALA Foundation Diane Duscheck











American Legion Auxiliary Foundation

What has the ALA Foundation accomplished since 2007?

- \$957,933 granted to American Legion Auxiliary units/departments
- 261 grants given to support veterans, military, and their families
- 46 states impacted by ALA Foundation grants
- \$639,149 granted to American Legion Auxiliary programs











American Legion Auxiliary Foundation

ALA Foundation

- Donations of \$4,017
- An American Legion Auxiliary Foundation
- \$2,500 grant to Port Washington 82 for Creative Arts project at Zablocki
- \$10,000 grant to Chippewa Falls for their Pavilion construction
- \$10,000 for roof repairs on a Vet Center
- Food pantry shelving
- Dragon boats for racing competition
- Wheelchair bicycles











American Legion Auxiliary Foundation

2026 ALA Foundation Budget

- Since 2013 ALAF has donated \$267,000 to Girls Nation
- 2026 donation will be \$45,000
- (photo of 2024 President and Vice President)













American Legion Auxiliary Foundation

2026 ALA Foundation Budget

- In 2025 ALAF donated \$20,000 to support Spirit of Youth Scholarships
- 2026 donation will be \$45,000
- for Junior members
- for Department Junior Members of the Year
- for Girls Nation delegates













American Legion Auxiliary Foundation

2026 ALA Foundation Budget

 Since 2014 ALAF has donated \$596,000 to Veterans Creative Arts

2026 donation will be \$75,000













American Legion Auxiliary Foundation

Challenge Deck



- Donate \$35 to ALAF Veteran Projects Fund
- Receive a Challenge Deck
- Learn about ALA programs and projects
- alafoundation.org







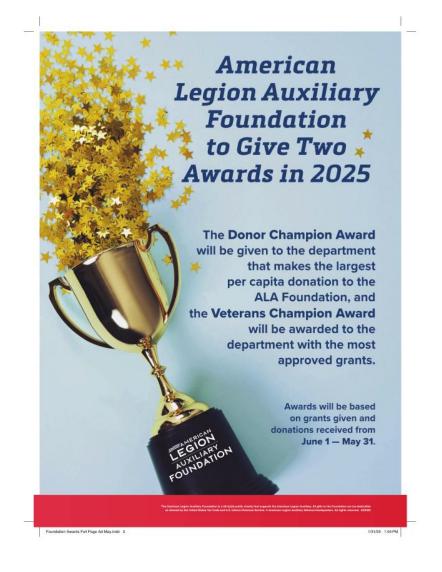




American Legion Auxiliary Foundation

ALA Foundation Awards

- TWO Awards will be given at National Convention
- DONOR CHAMPION AWARD to the department that makes the largest per capita donation
- VETERANS CHAMPION AWARD to the department with the most approved grants













American Legion Auxiliary Foundation

Ways to support the ALA Foundation

- Donate to:
 - Veteran Projects Fund
 - Veterans Creative Arts Festival
 - Mission Endowment Fund
- How to donate:
 - Use the Wisconsin donation sheet
 - Online at
 - alafoundation.org

- Monies donated to Mission Endowment Fund
 - The donations remain in the fund and draw interest
 - Donations are NOT spent
 - Only interest income is used for grants











Committee/Program Reports

Fundraising Laura Calteux







CONVENTION FLOOR REPORT

FUNDRAISING 2025

LAURA CALTEUX

The Department of Wisconsin has fundraising running through their veins. We do it in so many ways and our veterans, military and communities benefit from our creativity and generosity. From spaghetti dinners, chicken dinners, cake auctions, raffle baskets and so much more, our units along with our Legion Families are showing up and making money for our programs.

This year President Becky chose the Auxiliary Emergency Fund as her special project. We had a basket raffle at Mid-Winter that brought in \$1,344.00 – THANK YOU! And this convention was out of this world! You were asked to donate baskets and boy did you come through! We had 90 baskets for the raffle. And with everyone's generous donations we made \$6,299.00, for a total of \$7,643.00 for President Becky's special project. Thank you!





Committee/Program Reports

Junior Activities Christine Johnsen







PROGRAM: JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Department Convention Floor Report 2024-2025

Department of Wisconsin

Dr. Christine Johnsen, Chair Morgan Johnsen, Vice Chair

Madam President, Officers, Members, and Guests –

It was a great honor to serve as your Junior Activities Program chairman and I am proud to report that this has been an extremely successful year.

One hundred sixty-three Wisconsin units completed Junior Activities reports stating that 44 Wisconsin units have an active Junior group, with 161 active Juniors. They completed Patch Program requirements to earn 42 patches. Ninety Juniors participated in service projects, performed 3,308 volunteer hours, and Juniors donated \$4,734. At Port Washington Unit 82, the senior Poppy Princess makes and donates arts and craft kits for family events such as Children & Youth Day and Family Fun Fall Festival and donated \$3,900 in proceeds to Project Bravo, a service-dogs-for-veterans program.

Wisconsin Juniors could be found serving our veterans, military, and the community at activities supporting nearly every ALA program this year. They assisted with many events and fundraisers for programs such as Honor Flights, Wreaths Across America, American Education Week, and Creative Arts Festival. Juniors were also seen distributing poppies, donating to food pantries, visiting veterans at VA facilities, assisting at senior care homes, making meals for veterans and community members, and leading appreciation events for police, fire, and first responders.

Collecting donations for Toys for Tots, collecting clothing and hygiene items for veterans, caroling at assisted living homes, and placing flags at veteran graves for Memorial Day, are a few other ways Wisconsin Juniors have been serving the community.

Combine these 2 pics in one slide if possible.



Junior members of Marathon Unit 469 participated in a greeting card workshop and created over 400 greeting cards to be sent to various VA homes across the state, throughout the year.



Additionally, Neenah Unit 33 planted a red maple tree at the local American Legion post to "Honor a Veteran" and lovingly cared for it throughout the years to make sure it had strong roots.

I would like to extend a great big THANK YOU to all the units that participated in Junior Activities program activities this past year. I commend you for the wonderful work that you do!



On the Department level, Wisconsin Juniors participated in three events. Juniors exemplified *Service to Veterans* during the fall conference at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, by helping residents with a rousing morning of Bingo.



Along with traditional prizes of quarters and dollars, the Juniors made dozens of Taylor Swift-style friendship bracelets to give to Bingo winners. These were a huge hit with both the Juniors and the residents!

Combine into one slide if possible



After a business meeting, the Juniors and Seniors worked together to make dozens of adorable tray favors for two holiday celebrations: Thanksgiving turkeys and clothespin reindeer for Christmas.

Combine into one slide if possible



Eight enthusiastic Junior members had the fantastic opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skill, and share what they are learning about the American Legion Family, during a presentation to Auxiliary Seniors at the Midwinter Conference.



To prepare, Juniors met over Zoom for several weeks to divide up the work, plan the presentation, and gather materials.

The presentation started with a membership skit, then Juniors led Senior Auxiliary members through a series of activities inspired by the Junior Patch Program. Over the course of an hour, Juniors taught Senior members the Pledge of Allegiance in American Sign Language; how to fold pocket flags; and facilitated a Trivia contest to learn facts about the ALA and SAL, the history of the US Constitution, and poppy facts.



Finally, a presentation on the signs and symptoms of a heart attack or stroke was given by Honorary Junior President Lyndsay Stiff. At the end of the program, Senior members earned a Certificate of Completion, and prizes were given to Trivia winners. Many Senior members provided feedback that this was one of the best experiences at Midwinter they had ever had, because it was interactive and everyone got to actively

participate in the session. Others commented on the confidence and poise of these Juniors, aged 7 to 15, who were speaking in front of over 100 Senior Auxiliary members in a large conference ballroom.



Wisconsin Juniors capped off the year of *Serving from the Heart* during a spring conference weekend at Camp American Legion in April. Juniors had the opportunity to explore the camp, and stay overnight in the cabins for the weekend event, providing a greater appreciation for this wonderful veteran resource.



Juniors completed a service project for the veterans: cleaning up and organizing the volume of materials in storage in the Main Lodge basement.



They also made cards for veterans that will be participating in Camp programs during the summer.



Juniors held a complete business meeting, including processing the flags, an opening prayer,



reports of activities completed throughout the year, election of honorary Department Junior officers, and subsequent installation by the Department President Becky.



This was an exciting weekend, full of food, friendship and FUN!

There is one award this year: Junior Unit of the Year, which was selected based on the extensive narrative report, itemizing all of the wonderful activities that were completed by Unit 33, Neenah. Vicki Hanson, Junior Activities Chair for Unit 33, is here to say a few words.

Create Slide

2024-25 Department of Wisconsin ALA Junior Unit of the Year
Unit 33, Neenah

Vicki Hanson, Junior Activities Chair



I would like to acknowledge 2024-25 Department of Wisconsin ALA Honorary Junior Officers that were elected in Fall 2024.

Create Slide

2024-25 Department of Wisconsin ALA Honorary Junior Officers

President	Lindsey Stiff	Unit 6	District 8
Vice President	Virginia Calteux	Unit 416	District 4
Secretary	Everly Blader	Unit 317	District 8
Historian	Allison Quist	Unit 317	District 8
Chaplain	Maddie Drewek	Unit 416	District 4
Sergeant at Arms	Shine Dickerson	Unit 482	District 3
Sergeant at Arms	Luna Lee	Unit 482	District 3



I would like to acknowledge Vice Chair Morgan Johnsen, for her dedication to the Junior program, and my voluntold, Elizabeth Johnsen, who assisted with the Fall Junior Activities Conference.

Wisconsin Juniors are a very active and valuable part of the American Legion Family. Our future is bright with the help of our dedicated and caring Wisconsin Juniors!

Madam President this concludes the Junior Activities report. There are no resolutions or recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Christine Johnsen, Chairman Junior Activities Committee Department of Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

<u>cmj102@aol.com</u> Cell: (715) 203-2015





Junior Activities

2024-2025 Department of Wisconsin Juniors by the Numbers

Junior Activities reports received	163
Active Junior Units reported	44
Active Juniors reported	161
Junior Patch Program patches earned	42
Juniors participating in service projects	90
Volunteer hours reported	3,308
Donations made by Juniors	\$4734





































































































































































Junior Activities



Morgan Johnsen and Elizabeth Johnsen









Committee/Program Reports

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



Leadership Teresa Isensee





DEPARTMENT CONVENTION LEADERSHIP FLOOR REPORT

Chairperson: Teresa Isensee Committee Members: Christina Petranovich and Sarah Stiff

(Assist-Educate-Empower-Mentor picture)

The Leadership Teams focus for 2024-2025 was to "Assist, Educate, Empower, and Mentor" our members, units, counties, and Districts. We involved not only the Leadership Committee, but included any assistance from District Presidents, District Membership Chairman, Department Officers, Department Chairman and Past Department Presidents.

Assisting, educating empowering and mentoring our members is most important – without knowledge of what and who is available how can they find the answers they are looking for. One of the examples of Educating our members were the ALA in the Know sessions, three were held in September and October with 167 members in attendance, topics were MyAuxiliary Member Portal, Program Engagement Plans, ALA Program Overviews, Public Relations, Annual Reports, Membership and Leadership – Two questions were given during the Leadership breakout session

List three reasons why you would not want to be an officer or a chairman? and What do you feel your strength is and what is something you could mentor others on?

Another example of educating our members was the Mid-Winter Workshop held in January 2025 with approximately 103 members present. Presentations were on Leadership, Juniors, Annual Reports, ALA Badger Girls State, Legislative Action Alerts, and Strategic Visioning.

The Leadership presentation included the responses from the question asked at the ALA in the Know – List three reasons why you would not want to be an officer or chairman. The responses fell into three categories as follows:

(Reasons Categories picture)

• <u>Time Management</u> the largest response – too busy with family, Church commitments, Presently a caregiver, children activities, too much responsibility, and long distance to and from meeting locations

Solutions are to Pre-Plan your meetings, Assign Agenda items to Program Chairman, Volunteer when you are able, volunteer from home, don't try to do everything, use your officers, look into zoom capabilities for your meetings

• Responsibilities Required – fear of making decisions, end of year reports, running a meeting, protocols, take too much time

Solutions are to Ask for help, Use the Unit Guidebook, Wisconsin articles in the Badger Legionnaire, Bi-Monthly Unit Mailings, take the ALA Academy session on the National Website, use the Program Engagement Plans, and ask for help

• Not feeling a part of the team – Members not working together, some people are difficult to work with, too opinionated, don't want to try anything new

All members and their ideas are important – don't make anyone feel afraid to make suggestions, try something new if it doesn't work then discuss what worked and what didn't, Never make anyone feel bad.

Leadership is more than just being an Officer – Are you a Leader?

Are you Passionate about the Legion Family
Do you Listen to Others
Do you lead by example
Do you have a Positive Attitude
Are Someone who can turn an idea into a reality
Who can organize a training session, workshops

(You are a Leader picture)

WHEN YOU ARE A LEADER

YOU ARE NO LONGER RESPONSIBLE
FOR DOING THE JOB;
YOU ARE NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR
INSPIRING, COACHING,
MENTORING AND MOTIVATING
YOUR TEAM TO PRODUCE

THEIR VERY BEST WORK

There are many great members in our Department of Wisconsin showing what great Leadership abilities they have. Some examples from the Narrative reports I received are:

Unit 379 Birchwood – has added Zoom attendance opportunities to their Monthly meetings and discussions are held at each meeting on the available Tools and resources.

(Unit 159 Cadott Recruitment Table picture)

Unit 159 Cadott sends an email with each meeting's agenda including links to the Department Unit Mailings, District 10 Newsletter and most recent Membership information. Cadott Unit Made and donated Afghan Lap Blankets and towels to the Chippewa Falls Veteran Home, had an Information and Recruitment table at the local Cadott Festival – Booya Days.

(Unit 469 Marathon Parade attendees picture)

Unit 469 Marathon attended and ALA in the know and expressed that "this was very eye opening and helpful, I have been pro-active in encourage other members to consider attending future workshops."

(Unit 186 Independence picture)

Unit 186 Independence chartered One hundred years ago in 1924, going though old member roster's, minutes from meetings, and notes on just about everything we were able to find 380 former members, they recognized these great ladies with a bronze grave marker similar to those placed on our veteran graves. Placement of markers, in our local cemetery's, will start with the most current then systematically go back to all those who have been identified as members. Why you wonder recognize these women? One answer ... unselfish generosity. During the hard years of the depression, they contributed to the school milk program for children in need along with food baskets and clothing drives for needed families.

(St Croix County picture)

The St. Croix County Legion Family participated in sending care packages to troops. These packages were sent to the 128th Infantry Battalion from New Richmond, recently deployed to Kuwait. The packages included monetary donations and goods, for 125 troops. Legion Family members and community dropped off items at the Wilson Legion Post, then taken to the St. Croix Veteran Service Officer, Phillip Landgraf to be boxed and sent. St. Croix County ALA President Elsie Obermueller was instrumental in promoting this project. Units participating were: Sommerset #111, New Richmond # 80, Woodville #301, and Wilson # 330.

Units please share your Leadership stories – something special you do at meetings, how you share information to your members and projects that promote the American Legion Family to the Department Leadership Chairman, anytime with description and separate pictures in picture format.

Thank you to my committee members Christina Petranovich and Sarah Stiff.

Madame president this concludes my Leadership Report – there are no recommendations or resolutions.

Unit Member of the Year Award

(Stephanie's picture)

Chippewa Falls Unit #77's nominee for the Unit Member of the Year Award is **Stephanie Benson.** Stephanie is eligible for the American Legion Auxiliary through her deceased husband, Michael Lee Benson, a Vietnam veteran.

Stephanie joined our Auxiliary on October 19, 2023. During that short time, she has been a whirlwind of enthusiasm, new ideas and activity. She has a real love for both veterans and her community.

Stephanie is currently serving as our Unit's 1st Vice President. She attends all our monthly meetings and has participated in District Conferences. (District Conference picture)

She has brought in new members to our Auxiliary and has inspired our group to become more active. She volunteered to take several shifts distributing poppies, promoted our Unit marching in local parades, helped organize our community Halloween Trunk 'n Treat, aided in making lunch for our Patriotic Council during their long day of Veterans Day programs, and has been active in several events involving our veterans (Memorial Day, Flag Day, Christmas, etc.). She is also encouraging our members to purchase matching American Legion Auxiliary uniforms so that we will make a bigger visual impact in our community.

(Halloween 2 picture)

Stephaine recently became involved in a very special mission. In May of 2024, Stephanie, along with other members of our Auxiliary and Post, was placing flags on the veteran gravesites in Forest Hill Cemetery in Chippewa Falls. As she was doing this, Stephanie came across some veterans' graves that did not have stones. She asked why they did not have markers, but no one could answer her question.

In her own words, Stephanie said, "I went home that day feeling pretty upset. I thought to myself that this is not right! These men fought for our country and gave up so much that they deserve to have military stones marking their graves. I continued to think about what and how I could change this over the weekend. I knew I had to do something! I talked to a friend of mine who I knew would know the answer on how to get these men their stones. And so, my journey began."

(Civil War Markers 2 and 3)

With the approval of our Post Commander Gary Lowe, and with the help of two Post members – Jim Campbell and Ron Schroeder – Stephanie contacted the cemetery groundskeeper, and they found the graves of three Civil War veterans – Samuel Rowan, John Knear and David McGuire. Their goal was to find relatives and help them with the paperwork to apply for their military stones. However, due to the Privacy Act, they were unable to obtain the military records of these

Civil War veterans. They also found out the area where these veterans were buried was donated by the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR).

With the approval of Jim and Ron, Stephanie contacted the offices of Senator Tammy Baldwin and Congressman Derek Van Orden to see if they could help get the military records. Senator Baldwin's office sent her a Privacy Act Release form. After filling it out, it was forwarded to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. The National Archives requested more information on the three men, but all Stephanie had were their names. Mike Hanke from Congressman Van Orden's office reached out to the Archives on their behalf, but they are still waiting for a response.

Stephanie did not let this setback deter her. She contacted a local TV station and told her story on air to get the public's help. Her story aired on November 11, 2024 – Veterans Day. She, Jim, and Ron hoped that a relative would see it and come forth. Although that was not the case, good things did happen!

Because the story aired on the local WEAU and WQOW television stations, other news outlets picked up the story. Brian Richards and his cousin Alicia, genealogists from Brooklyn, WI, heard their story and offered their services free of charge. After countless hours spent at the Historical Society, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and the Register of Deeds looking for death certificates, this help was very much welcomed.

Brian and Alicia were able to find out some information on one of the men – Samuel Rowan. He was born in 1829 in Ohio and died September 29, 1898 in the township of Eagle Point near Chippewa Falls. Serving twice during the Civil War, Samuel died a poor widower with no children. The GAR buried him in Forest Hill Cemetery. Two relatives were found – one did not respond, and the other was not interested in getting a stone for Samuel. Brian and Alicia are still working on finding out information on John Knear and David McGuire.

(Civil War Markers 1)

Another outstanding thing happened after their story aired! Stephanie received a call from Chris at Johnson Monuments in Chippewa Falls. Chris saw the story on TV and wanted to donate the stones, as well as the engraving and the setting of the stones, for the three Civil War veterans. At long last, these men would have their graves marked.

Through this project, Stephanie has kept in touch with Tom Mueller, the grave register officer for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic in Madison. Tom will enter their names into the GAR's National database and find a grave website. These three Civil War veterans will have their place in history and not be forgotten!

As you can see, when it comes to our veterans, Stephanie is a real "go-getter"! We proudly submit her name for consideration for the Unit Member of the Year Award.





Leadership Committee

ASSIST

Members, Units, Counties, and Districts

EDUCATE

Hold Training sessions on whatever is needed by the members

EMPOWER

Helping someone realize their abilities and potential

MENTOR

Work with members to continue the assistance and education as needed











Leadership Committee ALA In The Know Question 1 Categories

Time Management

Responsibilities Required

Not feeling a part of The Team









Leadership Committee

When you are a leader You are no longer responsible For doing the job; You are now responsible for Inspiring, Coaching, Mentoring, and Motivating Your team to produce Their very best work

























































Leadership Committee

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families











Unit Member of the Year Award

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



Stephanie Benson Chippewa Falls Unit 77









Unit Member of the Year Award











Unit Member of the Year Award

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families











Unit Member of the Year Award













Committee/Program Reports

Legislative Maggie Geiger







Legislative Convention Report – Maggie Geiger

Insert slide 1

What is the purpose of the Legislative Program,

The purpose of the Legislative program is to provide information and assistance to ALA members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion with elected officials at all levels of government (local, state, national).

Insert slide 2

Department of Wisconsin ALA members have worked diligently to support the advancement of the American Legions Legislative Priorities. Educating members has been key, to help members have a better understanding, what the priorities are, and how to contact their elected officials. Many members reported they had no idea how easy it is to reach out to let their representatives, and how thrilled they were to receive a reply from their representative.

Insert slide 3

Some unit presidents reported bring their laptop to meetings, taking the time to help members who would like to enroll in the Grassroots Action Center, for members who do not have a computer or need assistance using the app on their phones.

Opportunities such as ALA in the Know, Mid-Winter Conferences, Fall District meeting, County Council meetings as well as social media, such as Facebook, unit / department mailings, group email blasts and word of mouth were used to bring awareness to members about the priorities.

Where do you find the Legislative agendas, Insert slide 4

How do you sign up for Grassroots notifications, Insert slide 5

What are the Priorities, Insert slide 6

Were explained to make it easy for members to participate.

Weekly or bi-weekly Grassroots agenda notices, along with notices from the State of Wisconsin Legion Legislative Chair about important legislative items that were up for a vote, were shared with members. Many members did not realize some of issues here in the state, that are being worked on.

Units reported that it brought a sense of ownership and understanding that there are other ways to support our veterans, some stated that with a clearer understanding of the Legislative program their members are participating and are eager to share how many times they sent

messages to their elected officials at unit meetings and ask other members are you hooked up to Grassroots?

Insert slide 7

The Legislative program is one that all members can participate in, right from the privacy of their homes 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Members who are not as active, can still support the Legislative program. Just pour a morning cup of joe, look at the Grassroots alerts and send your support to officials.

Many units still participate in Village, City, Town, and County board meetings, where it is great opportunity to share with community leaders, especially during the question-and answer session where members share their concerns regarding VA health care, veteran's benefits and other issues concerning local veterans. The personal touch still is the best way to have their voices heard, when it comes with veterans' issues.

Insert slide 8

Auxiliary members were asked to co-sign a letter requesting federal action needed to unlock veteran benefits and save state medical resources through the PARIS Veteran March. Members signed their names, and many went to the State Capital in Madison to help raise awareness of veterans and to support Pact 10, VA, and property tax benefits for disabled veterans.

Inviting the County Veteran Service Officer, and community members to unit meetings has shed more light on local veteran's needs, not only to ALA members, but also community members who have a veteran in their family but are yet members. The hope is to use meetings not only to educate about veteran's need and the ALA mission, but also to help grow membership.

Wisconsin won an award for the most contacts to our legislators, receiving this award opened the eyes of many members. Your voices reported hours and dollars are so important, to help our veterans receive and continue receiving benefits that they are eligible for and have been promised!

Insert slide 9

I will conclude my report with this, if we compare ourselves to sprinkling cans, as an individual we hold so much water, but working together as the Legion family we have a larger sprinkling can that can bring more awareness to veterans' issues, keep flooding our elected officials letting them know that you support The Legions Legislative Priorities.

Keep up the outstanding work Auxiliary Members!

Madam President, this concludes my report.





Legislative

The purpose of the Legislative program is to provide information and assistance to ALA members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion with elected officials at all levels of government (local, state, national).





















Legislative

www.legion.org/advocacy/legislative



Legislative Agenda & Point Papers

The American Legion strongly advocates for additional legislation to improve the lives of veterans, servicemembers and their families.



























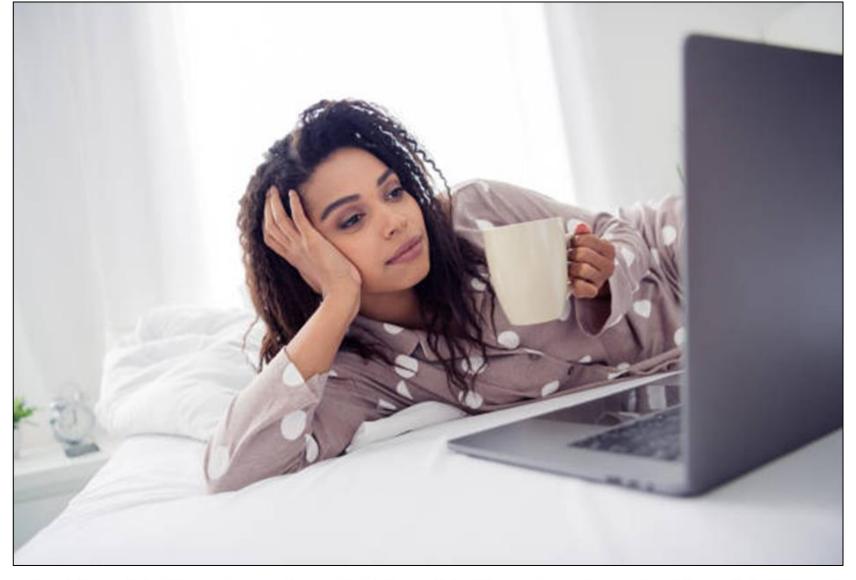










































Committee/Program Reports

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



Amy Luft Membership



Slide 1: Members, you are the heart of this organization. Thank you for keeping our heartbeat strong this year and putting your heart and soul into renewing and recruiting members.

Slide 2: Wisconsin currently has 346 units. Our unit membership size ranges from 5 members to 186. The units are organized into 12 Districts with our smallest district consisting of 6 units with our largest at 48.

Slide 3: We reach many milestones this year:

- Obtained the National goal of 85% by March 15
- 681 New members were recruited which included, 18 female veterans & 6 male spouses
- 98 Rejoins were renewed
- A total 506 Facebook members over 300 new members joined this year!

Slide 4: Department and National offered membership awards to help motivate members and units along the way.

The individual award at the Department level called, The Beat Goes On, was offered to members who recruited a new or expired member. Qualifying recruiters could apply for the award and receive the ALA WISCONSIN pin.

Click: A total 145 pins were awarded. A big thank you goes out to everyone who recruited new members this year.

At the Unit Level, Department offered the Checking Our Pulse awards. These awards were an opportunity for units a to win some free cash. Units who were at 100% or more by the given deadline were placed in a random drawing to win \$100. **Click**: Congratulations to the following four units who each won \$100:

Sheboygan #83 - District 2 Odanah #25 - District 11 Owen #123 - District 7 Wild Rose #370 - District 8

Slide 5: The Pulsation Pass Award was the big one! All units who reached 100% or more were placed into a drawing for a chance to receive a Convention all-inclusive package consisting of:

2 paid registrations to Department Convention, 1 paid room for a 2-night stay in the convention hotel, recognition at convention, and 2 passes to the Commander's party on Saturday night.

And the lucky winner is.... **Click:** Washington Island Unit #402 from 9th - President Jewel Grandy. It wasn't just as easy as hopping in a card and driving here, was it? Have you ever attended convention before? You've worked hard on membership currently and it shows with 141% membership. Enjoy your time here at convention and congratulations again!

Slide 6: And what keeps our heartbeat strong? It's members recruiting! National offered the Recruit/Rejoin 10 award. **Click:** Four lucky winners from our Department received the National award – with our first ever Legionnaire! The last time we had that many was back in 2017! Congratulations to all four members!

- **Slide 7**: A heartfelt applause goes to the 101 Units who reached 100% or better. Take a look at this list, it's pretty impressive. These units are all members of the 100% Club and they worked hard to get there!
- **Slide 8**: All 12 Districts have members who belonged to the Club. Some of them have been members for a while, and some of them have recently joined. No matter when you joined, we appreciate you!
- **Slide 9:** And in case you're wondering...membership to the 100% Club is totally free and opened to any unit. There are no contracts to sign, you can join at any time. Actually, the earlier you join the better! Congratulations to all the units!
- **Slide 10:** Have you ever had a change of heart? Well, three of our units did and we're sure happy about it. These units previously disbanded years ago, but their Legion and community felt something was missing by not having an Auxiliary. With the help of their American Legion Family, their Charters were approved and reinstated by the National headquarters. Madam President, may I please introduce our newly re-chartered unit presidents? Please stand as I call off your name.
 - Mount Horeb Unit 113/District 3 Connie York, President Chartered on March 20
 - Montello Unit 351/District 6 Wendy Metcalf, President Chartered on April 7
 - Webb Lake Unit 403/District 12 Melissa Chartered: June 29

Welcome to convention! You may be seated.

- **Slide 11**: These charter ceremonies included participation from Department President, their county & District Presidents along with Legionnaires and SAL members. An extra surprise was finding out that having three units recharted in one year is a record for our Department. That gives us even more reasons to celebrate! Congratulations to all of you!
- **Slide 12:** Of our 346 units 151 (44%) submitted Membership Unit Annual Narrative reports. It was heartwarming to read about the many ways membership is promoted around our state. Units were really creative with ideas like the Sparta Unit 100 in District 7 who put together facts about becoming a member on their Facebook page. Units promoted membership within their community as well, like the Mazomanie Unit 437 in District 3 who had a membership display at their local Memorial Day event and the Cedarburg Unit 288 in District 2 who promoted membership during their Wreaths Across American event.
- **Slide 13:** The Mukwonago Unit 375 in District 1 worked together with their Legion to promote membership and the members of the Marathon unit 469 in District 8 rode in a local parade to celebrate their unit 75th anniversary.
- **Slide 14:** New members and membership milestones were celebrated all year long like the Grantsburg Unit 185 in District 12 did. They held an Appreciate Awards tea to thank their members.
- **Slide 15**: A few of our Districts like District 7 even came up with their own membership incentives to help boost the excitement of membership with their members.
- **Slide 16:** But during all these activities, units remembered the most important thing honoring our veterans. Like the Colfax Unit 131 in District 10 did. They were looking for a way to honor their local veterans and decide to write veterans name on stars and display them at a local bowling alley. They thought purchasing 88 stars would be enough but ended up with over 400 stars displayed. Love that idea!

Slide 17: I am overwhelmed with all of hard work that all of you have put towards membership this year and I wish I could recognize all of you because you are all winners. Madam President, I do however, have two special District awards that I would like to present at this time if I may:

- The District with the most new memberships: Click: District 3 Noreen Schmidt, Pres. & Shelley Drager, MC - 100 New Memberships
- The first District to reach 100%: Click: District 4 Kathy Grom Pres & Bonnie Jakubczyk, MC Reached 100% May 14 - currently at 100.85%

Slide 18: Our District Membership Chairs worked extremely hard this year. They supported their District Presidents, increased communication with their units and assisted units when needed. Madam President, may I take a moment to recognize those here today?

Please stand as I call your name:

Carol Brady – Dist 1
Diana Dalton – Dist 7
Danie Wilson – Dist 2
Shelley Drager – Dist 3
Bonnie Jakubczyk – Dist 4
Joyce Wingers – Dist 5
Patti Westpfahl – Dist 6
Diana Dalton – Dist 7
Fran Bender – Dist 8
LuAnn James – Dist 9
Teresa Steinke – Dist 10
Barb Bell – Dist 11
Barb McDaniel – Dist 12

In addition, Teresa Steinke (Dist 10) and Diane Zwiers (Dist 8) served on the Membership Committee. This is an outstanding team and I am honored to have the opportunity to work with each and every one of them. Thank you, ladies.

Slide 19: There are many people who work behind the scenes to help with the success of all our ALA programs and membership is no exception. Andrea Stolz, Membership Coordinator, is someone who many of you have probably spoke to at one point or another. It is rare to come across an employee who is as dedicated to their role as much as Andrea is. She has worked at Dept headquarters for 17 years and her years of experience with membership is an asset for our organization. Andrea handles hundreds of phone calls and emails daily, in addition to processing all our memberships. Andrea seems to have an uncanny way of knowing what we need even before we ask it! I wanted to take just a minute to recognize Andrea for all the work she does for our organization. Although she was not able to be here today, I'm hopeful that we can show our appreciation for her with a round of applause.

Slide 20: Our success this year was not reached by just one member, one unit, one county or one district. But by all of you working together. We stressed a lot this year about working together as a team because we all know that team work makes the dream work! Our heart thermometer rose during the year (almost to the top) and overall we had a very successful year.

A thankful heart opens eyes to a multitude of blessings. You are all proof of that. Thank you all for serving from the heart. Madam President, this concludes my report.





Membership













Membership Wisconsin Strong

346 Units

5 - 186 membership size

12 Districts

Smallest 6 units Largest 48 units











Membership Milestones

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



- Obtained National Goal of 85%
- 681 New memberships
 18 female veterans
 6 male spouses
- 98 Rejoins
- 506 Facebook Members











Membership Awards

The Beat Goes On Award



A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

Checking Our Pulse Award Winners

Sheboygan #83 - District 2

75% by September 15

Odanah #25 - District 11

85% by October 15

Owen #123 - District 7

95% by November 15

Wild Rose #370 - District 8

100% by December 15

















Membership Awards

The Beat Goes On Award

145 Pins Awarded



Checking Our Pulse Award Winners

Sheboygan #83 - District 2

75% by September 15

Odanah #25 - District 11

85% by October 15

Owen #123 - District 7

95% by November 15

Wild Rose #370 - District 8

100% by December 15















Membership Pulsation Pass Award



- Two paid registrations
- One paid room for a two-night stay in the convention hotel
- Recognition at convention
- Two passes to the Commander's party on Saturday night.













Membership Pulsation Pass Award



Washington Island Unit #402
9th District
Jewel Grandy, President

- Two paid registrations
- One paid room for a two-night stay in the convention hotel
- Recognition at convention
- Two passes to the Commander's party on Saturday night.











A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military,

and their Families



Membership National Recruit/Rejoin 10 Award Winners













Membership National Recruit/Rejoin 10 Award Winners

Cynthia Saylor

Rice Lake Unit #87 Dist. 10

Wendy Metcalf

Montello Unit #351 Dist. 6

Jerry Hook

Mt. Horeb Post #113 Dist. 3

Amy Luft

Grafton Unit #355 Dist. 2













Membership

THE CLUB

District 1

Kenosha #21
Twin Lakes #544
Burlington #79
Footville #237
Clinton #440
Walworth #102
East Troy #188
Delafield #196
Mukwonago #375
Okauchee #399

District 2

Wisconsin Dells #187 Rio #208 Pardeeville #215 Cambria #401 Mayville #69 Waterloo #233 Johnson Creek #305 Port Washington #82 Grafton #355 Fredonia #410 Sheboygan #83 Allenton #483

District 3

Stoughton #59 Mount Horeb #113 Cottage Grove #248 Black Earth #313 DeForest #348 Madison #481 Dane #503 McFarland #534 Platteville #42 Mt. Hope #229 Bagley #482 Avoca #335 Barneveld #433 Blanchardville #142 Argyle #251 Richland Center #13









Membership



Milwaukee #415 Oak Creek #434 Milwaukee #537

District 5

Milwaukee #1 Milwaukee #455

District 6

Brillion #126 Stockbridge #128 Fond Du Lac #75 Campbellsport #222 Mt. Calvary #454 Saint Cloud #478 Berlin #340 Two Rivers #165 Saint Nazianz #477 Briggsville #329 Montello #351 Omro #234 Winneconne #364



District 7

Rome #65 Owen #123 Humbird #320 Black River Falls #129 Bangor #40 Kendall #309













Membership

District 8

Mosinee #107 Rosholt #509 Plover #543 Tigerton #239 Wild Rose #370 Vesper #520

District 9

Kewaunee #29
Forestville #372
Washington Isl #402
Loomis #476
Oconto #74
Appleton #38
Hortonville #55



District 10

Rice Lake #87
Alma #224
Chippewa Falls #77
New Auburn #267
Cornell #353
Brackett #550
Spring Valley #227
Hammond #432
Osseo #324
Eleva #459

District 11

Odanah #25
Mercer #424
Kennan #362
Fifield #532
Lublin #547
Boulder Junction #451
Land O Lakes #464

District 12

Cable #487 Siren #132 Webb Lake #403 Clear Lake #108 Centuria #346 Winter #303 Birchwood #379









A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military,

and their Families



Membership Newly Re-chartered Units



Mt. Horeb Unit 113 Dist. 3



Montello Unit 351 Dist. 6





Webb Lake Unit 403 Dist. 12































Membership

JOIN THE SPARTA AUXILIARY!!

FAQ's On Being a Member

- You do not need to have served or have a spouse who served to be a member, there are lots of other ties that meet eligibility.
- You don't have to volunteer, come to meetings, or sell raffle tickets. But you sure can!
- There are numerous benefits for being a member, including Hardship Financial Assistance, Insurance Savings, Retail Discounts, and Other Healthcare Benefits.
- · It's easy to join

MEETINGS ARE THE 3RD WEDNESDAY
OF THE MONTH @6:30PM









































































Membership Awards













Membership Awards













Membership Awards

Most New Memberships District 3 Nerson Sehmidt Provident

Noreen Schmidt, President Shelley Drager, Membership Chair

First District to Reach 100%

District 4

Kathy Grom, President Bonnie Jakubczyk, Membership Chair













Membership

District Membership Chairs

Carol Brady – District 1
Danie Wilson – District 2
Shelley Drager – District 3
Bonnie Jakubczyk – District 4
Joyce Wingers – District 5
Patti Westpfahl – District 6

Diana Dalton – District 7
Fran Bender – District 8
LuAnn James – District 9
Teresa Steinke – District 10
Barb Bell – District 11
Barb McDaniel – District 12

Thank you!













Membership Membership Coordinator Andrea Stoltz













Membership

Thank you!













Committee/Program Reports

National Security Karen Runk







2024-2025 American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wisconsin National Security Program

Karen Runk, Chairman, kmrunk4@gmail.com Phone: 608-415-2001

Wisconsin National Security, Serving Military, First Responders and POW/MIA families from the depths of our Heart. Thanks to those members, units, counties and districts who participated in the Wisconsin Vietnam MIA mission. For those who are not familiar, this program supported our President's project regarding MIA Recovery & Identification Program. Information regarding 25 Vietnam MIA from Wisconsin was formatted in the likes of the military dog tag and then distributed to raise awareness and assist Gold Star Families file DNA.

Auxiliary Units generously supported the Fisher Houses in Milwaukee & Minneapolis with just under \$16,000. Our support of active-duty military is at the heart of our mission, donations for Active Duty/Family Assistance totaled \$4,775. Wisconsin members continued to support families of their deployed with over \$3,700 in care packages, holiday cards and gifts. Auxiliary Units generously supported the USO of Wisconsin with over \$4,000. The Wisconsin & Minnesota Fisher Houses received over \$16.000 in donations from over 60 Units. Units throughout Wisconsin reported over 2,500 volunteer hours and over \$30,500 in monetary and in-kind donations made in support of our troops with Care Packages and continued correspondence.

Auxiliary **Units 243** distributed 700 Camo Quilts at Volk Field for the Air Guards sendoff. The 700 Camo Quilts are constructed by the loving hands of **Unit 243** members, working together in their quilting room to plan, cut & sew comfort for service members. Throughout the year, Camo Quilts are designed for durability and mobility for our deployed troops.

At Truax Field, multiple Units baked cookies for the 115th Fighter Wing deployed family Christmas with Santa event. **Unit 245** took to their kitchens to bake 75 dozen (910) cookies for this Air Guards event. No cookies crumbled to waste, cookies were distributed to service members on base and shared with neighboring Army guards. 245 operated in stealth mode under Santa's magic, as 245 did not submit pictures.

Members supported the **American Red Cross** by hosting blood drives, donating many pints of much needed blood, provided food &refreshments and volunteers for blood drives. The amount of donated baked goods & snacks for community blood drives blood drives was immeasurable!

Units 71 and 333 held outstanding banquets and picnics honoring the first responders in their communities. Members of **Unit 71** assembled "thank you packages" for their first responders and law enforcement personnel. The packages contained bottled water, pre-packaged snacks, convenience store or drive thru gift cards and thank you cards created by school-aged children. A simple thank you can brighten a busy day for our on-duty first responders.

Wisconsin Auxiliary **Unit 98** presented graduating high seniors with Honor Cords as they enter the military, hosting events for the graduate and parents to be recognized and encouraged to reach out to the American Legion Family for support. **Unit 469** members were invited to their local school to share information on patriotism; service to community & nation; as well as enlisting in the armed forces and what that means. Unit 469 shared their personal story of family members currently serving, displaying personal military gear & photos and inspiring our future leaders of America

Unit 38 partnered with the Wisconsin Blue Star Mothers organization to hold a banquet, share military networks & information and distribute 16 blue star banners to those who had not received the banner. Members and Blue Star Mothers collaborated to support our Wisconsin soldiers and troops. In total, Wisconsin Units distributed 24 Blue Star banners to eligible military family members.



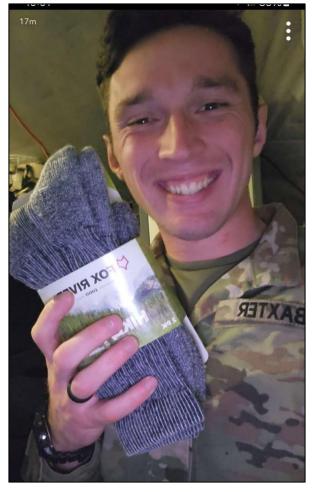
In December 2024, Wreathes Across America (WAA) invited NS chairman Karen Runk and Blue Star Mother, Lorie Ballweg to present a special Wisconsin Vietnam MIA wreath at their event in Union Grove, Wisconsin. Wisconsin State representatives in attendance saw our mini-dog tags we crafted and requested the electronic version for their purposes. In April 2025, our Department President attended the Veterans Day at the Capital Event where she recognized the impact of our Vietnam MIA dog tag information! Over 400 veterans and Auxiliary members marched on the Capital to present our agenda, including funding for the UW-Madison MIA RIP (University of Wisconsin Madison MIA Recovery and Identification Program).

LEGION AUXILIARY

A Community
of Volunteers
Serving Veterans,
Military,
and their Families



National Security











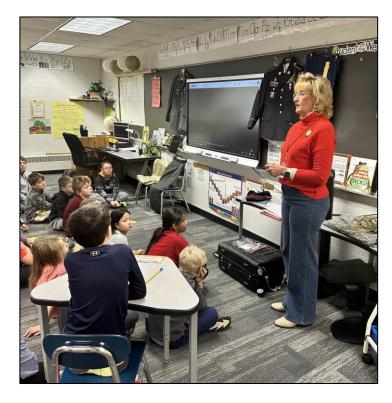






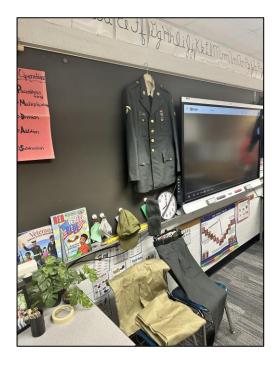


National Security















LEGION AUXILIARY

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



National Security





Wisconsin National Guard 🧇

Sep 30, 2024 · 😚

This past weekend, we joined families and friends at Volk Field ANGB for a formal sendoff ceremony for over 300 Wisconsin Army National Guard Soldiers deploying to U.S. Central Command in Southwest Asia and U.S. Africa Command, Horn of Africa.

These Soldiers will support ongoing operations through tactical missions and provide medical care capabilities across the region.

We wish you the best and look forward to your safe return!

To learn more, visit the link to the full story in the comment section below.











The Patriot Riders came to the shop today to present us with a check. They designated the proceeds they made on their ride to several patriotic groups. They also took a tour of our facility. We will be putting the funds to a good cause. We are in the process of making 700 quilts for the Wisconsin National Guard which will be

deploying this coming May. We want to thank

them for their generosity to Camo Quilts.















National Security















Committee/Program Reports

Office Policy Diana Sirovina







OFFICE POLICY COMMITTEE

CONVENTION REMARKS 2025

Diana Sirovina, Chairman

The Office Policy Committee is one of those committees that as they say, "flies under the radar." Being an organizational support committee, rather than a mission outreach committee means it is not a committee that you hear about often. As a matter of fact, I found out recently there are a few out there that did not know what it was.

The job description states, in part, that the purpose of the committee is to oversee the operations of the Department Headquarters Office. The committee responsibilities also include reviewing employee policies, work rules, and salary and benefit management. In addition, the three-person committee works with the Department Secretary to ensure that our staff has the necessary technology and office equipment to perform their various jobs at the highest of standards.

Our business office in Portage boasts a staff of four very experienced and dedicated fulltime employees. Combined, our Executive Director and the three administrative professionals have a total of one hundred and two years of service to the Department of Wisconsin!

This year, Linda Cason, our Bookkeeper and Program Assistant, has 52 years of service. Carrie Thrasher, our ALA Badger Girls State Program Coordinator is with us 18 years. Andrea Stoltz, Membership Program Coordinator, has 17 years of service. Each of these staff members perform not only their daily duties but manage countless inquiries from our members as well. And they do it all with pleasant smiles!

Bonnie Dorniak, our amazing Executive Secretary-Treasurer, is completing 15 years of outstanding service to the Department. I doubt that many know the extent of the numerous hours Bonnie devotes to this organization. I know that I have exchanged emails with her long after most people in this room are snoozing in their comfortable beds. The depth of Bonnie's knowledge, and outstanding organizational skills, coupled with her diligence and dedication and unique sense of humor combine to make her an exceptional manager, whom we are fortunate to have in charge of our business.

We also need to acknowledge our other two employees, our Poppy Shop staff. Sue Hembrook, our Poppy Shop Supervisor, has done an outstanding job of organizing our new location at the Milwaukee War Memorial. This year she has worked especially hard and spent countless hours to recruit and train more veteran poppy makers to ensure that our Wisconsin poppies will continue to be made solely by veterans. She is assisted by Bonnie Jakubczyk.

Please join me in a round of applause to thank Bonnie and all our staff for their outstanding service to our Department!

Overall, on behalf of the Office Policy Committee, I am pleased to report that our business office is run in a highly efficient and professional manner and that our employees support and promote the mission of The American Legion Auxiliary each and every day,

Madam President, may I introduce the other members of the Office Policy Committee? The other members of the committee are Past Department Presidents Virginia Kodl, and Teresa Isensee.

Madam President, this concludes my report.





Office Policy The Fantastic Office Staff!



L to R: Bonnie Dorniak ~ Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Andrea Stoltz ~ Membership/Program Coordinator

Linda Cason ~ Bookkeeper/Program Assistant

Carrie Thrasher ~ ALA Badger Girls State/Program Coordinator (not pictured)











Office Policy

The Spectacular Poppy Shop Staff!



Sue Hembrook Poppy Shop Supervisor













Committee/Program Reports

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



Past Presidents Parley Joanie Dickerson





Committee/Program Reports

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families











Honored Past Department President

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



Joan Chwala (2011-2012)



Libraries of Love"













Committee/Program Reports

Poppy Deanna Farley







DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN 2025 POPPY REPORT

Greetings to my American Legion Auxiliary family!

2025 POPPY POSTER COMPETITION

I want to thank everyone for their participation in the 2025 Poppy Poster competition!

We had forty-two units participate in the Poppy Poster Contest making an astounding 652 Poppy Posters. Of those forty-two units, fourteen units entered their posters in the competition. Each poster was scrutinized several times to determine which ones should go on to the Central Division competition. Congratulations to all!!

These were the 1st and 2nd Place Winners in each of the seven classes:

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1st Place Class 1 – Julia Riihinen – Unit 118
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2nd Place Class 1 – Ethan Taylor – Unit 66

1st Place Class 11 – Jessa Reimer – Unit 512

2nd Place Class 11- Brayden Suenneh – Unit 66

1st Place Class 111 - Alana Schmidt - Unit 512

2nd Place Class 111 - Raelynnn Olson – Unit 128

1st Place Class 1V – Natalie Brickner – Unit 82

2nd Place Class 1V – Macey Badzinski – Unit 118

1st Place Class V - Serena Love - Unit 66

1st Place Class V1 – Frankie Hoeffeller – Unit 66

2nd Place – Raina Sivertson – Unit

1st Place Class V11 – Payton Wojcik – Unit 66

2nd Place Class V11- Damon Holst - Unit 171

POPPY REPORTING UNITS FACTS:

We had 196 units send in a Poppy Report. Of that total, nineteen units send in a narrative with their report. Some were several pages long with pictures and details of what they did for throughout the year using Poppies as the center attraction of their activities. Of those 196 units, 173 units distributed Poppies on one or more days.

POPPY PRINCESS

We did have two applications for Poppy Princess 2025. I chose Avery Smith from Unit 434, District 4 as our Poppy Princess. I will be attaching her application and wonderful scrapbook to this email as well.

MOST OUTSTANDING POPPY PROGRAM

The most Outstanding Poppy Program from the Department of Wisconsin was ALA Unit 33 of Neenah. They sent in a great scrapbook documenting all of their Poppy Workshops, Poppy Distribution, and their many community events centering around the Poppy. One of my favorite pictures in their scrapbook was a garden planting with many Poppy Flowers!! Good job to Unit 33 of Neenah!,

Deanna Farley, Dept. of WI Poppy Chairman

Past Presidents Parley Report 2024-2025 ~ Joanie Dickerson, Chairman

The Past Presidents Parley has been serving our members from the depths of their hearts all year long. Events honoring past presidents were held in multiple units. Although many units submitted a narrative report for this program, no other information was provided regarding activities or events.

This year, 240 members joined the Past Presidents Parley and \$1,252.00 was donated to the scholarship fund. Three - \$1,000 scholarships were awarded again this year. Recipients were Jacy Krueger from District 6 for nursing, Brinn Tedlie from District 3 and Hannah Dobish from the headquarters unit for health careers.

Statistically, our Past Presidents Parley has become significantly smaller in the past 20 years. During the 2007-2008 fiscal year when dues were .50, we had 1,301 members. In the 2011-2012 fiscal year, dues went from .50 to \$2.00 and we had 826 members, a decrease of nearly 500 members! A year later, in the 2012-2013 fiscal year, dues went from 2.00 to 5.00 and we had 557 members, another decrease of more than 200 and in the 2023-2024 fiscal year, dues went from 5.00 to 7.00 and we had 216 members, an over 300 member decrease. At the same time, we went from awarding 6 - \$1,000 scholarships to the 3 - \$1,000 scholarships we currently present. Something important to note is that a unit doesn't need to have an organized Past Presidents Parley in order to support the scholarship fund. Any unit can donate to the scholarship fund to support students pursuing an education in the health careers. Access the PPP dues form on the department website. There's a line for donations to the scholarship fund. Submit the form with a unit check to headquarters and help make a difference in the lives of students wishing to become health care professionals.

The Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary Cavalcade of Memories maintains display cases at Department Headquarters with a memento from each of the Past Department Presidents along with additional displays commemorating our Past National Presidents' special years of service to our organization. Several units reported displaying photographs of their past unit presidents either in their post home or in their community hall. One unit shared they celebrated the 75th anniversary of their unit's charter by purchasing a legacy stone and placing it at the Highground Veterans Park. Still others reported they had shared their units' histories with local and state historical societies. Securing our place in history as we continue to mentor the leaders of tomorrow while serving our veterans, military, their families and each other from the depths of our hearts!

Thank you to everyone that submitted a nomination for the Mentor of the Year award. I thought I'd have an easy time of it after learning that last year there were no nominations. I was proven wrong! After creating a spreadsheet with the criteria for the award and all the names of the nominees, I proceeded to evaluate each nomination. No big surprise that there wasn't a clear winner. So, this year there will be more than one Mentor of the Year. Active on all levels of our organization and sharing their vast knowledge with any member that asks for assistance, guiding while educating, praising in public, advising quietly in private, encouraging every

member to strive to reach their full potential, Teresa Isensee and Joyce Endres are selected as 2025 Mentors of the Year. A leader on all levels and displaying the same qualities as Teresa and Joyce while working diligently for many years to grow future senior members through her work with juniors at the unit, district and department level, Char Kiesling is recognized as a 2025 Mentor of the Year. As you can see, these ladies exemplify what it means to be a mentor, guiding members young and not as young to learn more about the ALA and become active members supporting the mission of serving veterans, our military, their families and our communities. Congratulations Terry, Joyce and Char!

Our honored Past Department President Joan Chwala served as Department President from 2011-2012. Joan is a 44-year PUFL member of Unit 326 in Boyd, Chippewa County, District 10.

Joan's eligibility for membership is through the service of her father, Robert N. Morris, an Army medic who served in the Pacific Theater during WWII, of her husband, Earl T. Chwala, who also served in the Army during Vietnam, and her brother, Lorum "Lem" Morris also an Army veteran of the Vietnam Era..

Joan was an educator for 35 years, teaching children in grades K-8 in the Gilman School District. Following her retirement, she focused her energies on serving our veterans and their families through her volunteer activities. ALA Badger Girls State was blessed to have her serve as a county counselor for nine years and as the leader of the Americanism and Community Service interest groups. She shared her leadership skills by serving on various department and national ALA committees and in chairmanships. Joan was awarded the prestigious Toomey Award for her department history in 2008. While serving as department membership chairman in 2006-2007, she brought her "three ringed circus" to multiple membership round-ups around the state to encourage renewals and recruitment.

Joan's theme "Libraries of Love' stemmed from her love of reading and desire to ensure that veterans across the state would have access to reading materials that enriched their lives. The gifts she presented on behalf of the Department to each of the veterans care facilities were quality reading materials including both books and periodicals. Continuing her dedication to veterans, Joan served as a hospital deputy at the Chippewa Falls Veterans home for 7 years. The veterans living there recalled fondly their shopping trips with her.

Here to share a tribute to our honored Past Department President is her dear friend Virginia Kodl.

Joan's response.

Also with us today is The American Legion Department Commander Joan served with, Past National Commander Denise Rohan to share a few words about their shared year of service.





Poppy Program







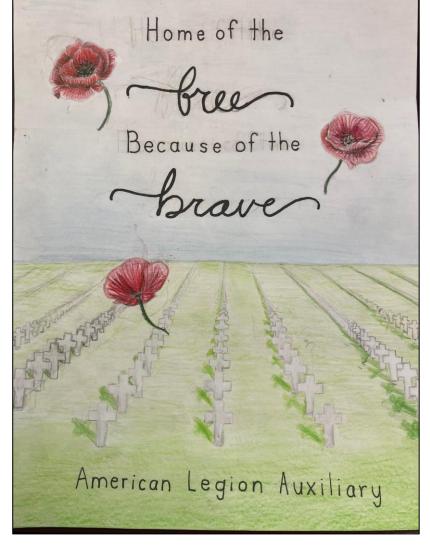






Poppy Program















Poppy Program

2025 Poppy Poster Competition Winners

- 1st Place Class I Julia Riihinen Unit 118, Thorp
- 2nd Place Class I Ethan Taylor Unit 66, Athelstane-Silver Cliff
- 1st Place Class II Jessa Reimer Unit 512, Shiocton
- 2nd Place Class II Brayden Suenneh Unit 66, Athelstane-Silver Cliff
- 1st Place Class III Alana Schmidt Unit 512, Shiocton
- 2nd Place Class III Raelynn Olson Unit 128, Stockbridge
- 1st Place Class IV Natalie Brickner Unit 82, Port Washington
- 2nd Place Class IV Macey Badzinski Unit 118, Thorp











Poppy Program

2025 Poppy Poster Competition Winners

- 1st Place Class V Serena Love Unit 66, Athelstane-Silver Cliff
- 1st Place Class VI Frankie Hoeffeller Unit 66, Athelstane-Silver Cliff
- 2nd Place Class VI Raina Sivertson
- 1st Place Class VII Payton Wojcik Unit 512, Shiocton
- 2nd Place Class VII Damon Holst Unit 128, Stockbridge

Congratulations to All!!











Poppy Program

Little Miss Poppy Avery Smith













Poppy Program

Outstanding Poppy Program Unit 33, Neenah









Committee/Program Reports

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



Bob ShappellPublic Relations







Public Relations Public Relations Reporting

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families 1. District 2 - 62.5%

2. District 8 - 53.8%

THE COLD STATE OF THE COLD STA

3. District 6 – 52.1%







A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans

of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



Public Relations Unit Recognition

St. Nazianz Unit 477

Caledonia Unit 494

Marathon Unit 469









Public Relations PR Certificate of Achievement

Linda Johnson Plymouth Unit 243









Public Relations





Unit 243 Poppy Posters













Committee/Program Reports

Standing Rules Maggie Geiger







Standing Rules Report – Maggie Geiger

Standing Rules

Are unique to each unit, district, and department. It outlines how your unit, district and department operate. They help explain the details of your unit, district, and department.

Standing Rules have the flexibility to be changed or amended with a motion at a meeting.

How often should you review your Standing Rules

While reading through the year end reports, several unit presidents reported they review them yearly and update them as needed. Others stated they are in the process of updating their Standing Rules. Some presidents reported that they cannot remember when any of their governing documents were updated, and know they need to get going. One unit reported that they are working with their post and will do them together. Remember, we are 2 separate organizations, and our governing documents differ.

The most important thing is to review your Standing Rules, have a committee of several, go over your documents, no one person should have to review the documents by themselves. What your unit does today, might not be what it does next year.

What are some of the items to include in your units Standing Rules

- Does your unit pay for any memberships for any members,
- Do you send any ALA BGS, how many, from your school district only
- When a member passes away, do you send a gift
- Will the unit pay the registration fee for conferences, mid-winter, dept convention; if so, what does the member have to do to receive reimbursement

- When do you hold Poppy Distribution, do you give a portion to the Legion for helping
- Are there yearly dinners such as, Veterans Day, Legion Birthday celebration or more
- Besides the unit president, who is responsible to assist in year-end reporting
- Where does the unit donate your funds to, are there certain amounts that the unit donates every year, and how much is donated
- When holding an event, does those chairing the event, need to ask for start up funds, are the funds raised designated before the event? Does the unit hold back and funds for seed monies?
- Do you celebrate milestones for members, send a card when a member is ill or so

These are just a few items that your Standing Rules might address. Some units, go into detail, such as, here is an example; under Poppy Princess, it is listed what events she is expected to attend, what her attire should be, and she will be able to keep her tiara, and sash etc.

Units, take their By-laws and expand on them in their Standing Rules, while other units keep it simple, do what works for your unit, remember you are unique!

Please consider passing out your governing documents to members, it will help them have a better understanding how your unit works.

Now you will get the opportunity to consider updates and changes to the departments Standing Rules.

The proposed changes were sent to all units 30 days prior to convention and were included in your Convention packet.

Madame President on behalf of the Standing Rules Committee I move to approve the changes to the Department Standing Rules as presented.

(Dept Pres Becky – discussion and vote)

Madame President I move that the Department Executive Secretary may make any grammatical changes such as spelling, punctuation, as necessary.

Madam President, may I introduce the committee?

The Pre-Convention Standing Rules committee included, Christina Petranovich, Diane Steinert, we were joined by President Becky, Parliamentarian Diane Kranig, C&B Chair Diana Sirovina and Executive Secretary Bonnie Dorniak

This concludes my report, thank you Madam President for this appointment.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN STANDING RULES 2025

Page 59: Proposed Amendment to Department and National Conventions, Executive Board Meetings and National Meetings, #17

CURRENT WORDING: 17. The Department Executive Board shall meet at least three times a year, the meeting to be held immediately after the close of the department convention and at the same place, and thereafter at the call of the President, the last meeting to be held immediately before the department convention and at the same place. Upon request made in writing to the Department President by one-third of the members of the Department Executive Board, the President shall call a special meeting of the committee at a time determined by the Department President. The Department President shall call special meetings of the Department Executive Board and determine appropriate times and places, with the approval of the Finance Committee.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: 17. The Department Executive Board shall meet at least three times a year, the meeting to be held immediately after the close of the department convention and at the same place, and thereafter at the call of the President, the last meeting to be held **prior to the department convention**. Upon request made in writing to the Department President by one-third of the members of the Department Executive Board, the President shall call a special meeting of the committee at a time determined by the Department President. The Department President shall call special meetings of the Department Executive Board and determine appropriate times and places, with the approval of the Finance Committee.

Page 60: Proposed Amendment to Guide for Department President, #3

CURRENT WORDING: 3. The Department President shall plan the dinner **and entertainment** for the Past Department Presidents at the department convention.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: 3. The Department President shall plan the dinner for the Past Department Presidents at the department convention.

Page 61: Proposed Amendment to Guide for Department President, #10

CURRENT WORDING: 10. In cooperation with the Department Executive Board, the Department President shall be responsible for the enforcement of discipline and maintenance of good conduct on the part of units and their members as in Article VIII of Department Bylaws.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: 10. In cooperation with the Department Executive Board, the Department President shall have units monitor their unit members for any improper conduct and provide general advisory information as stated in Article VIII, Section 4 of the Department Bylaws.

Rationale: The Department President has no power to enforce discipline. Each unit judges their own membership.

Page 64: Proposed Amendment to Junior Activities, #4

CURRENT WORDING: 4. A registration fee of \$5.00 be allowed at all Junior Auxiliary Conferences to help defray expenses.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: 4. A registration fee will be allowed at all Junior Auxiliary Conferences to help defray expenses.

Page 65: Proposed Amendment to Disbanding a Unit, add new subsection 2.f. and re-index remaining subsections

CURRENT WORDING: None

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: 2.f. In no event shall Department be required to assume any of the Unit's debts.

Page 66: Proposed Amendment to Past Presidents Parley, #9

Delete: 9. The immediate Past Presidents' Parley Chair, with the incoming Parley Chair, shall serve in an advisory capacity with the current Past Presidents' Parley Chair to study and evaluate recommendations to be submitted to the annual Parley meeting.

Renumber remaining sections.

Page 66: Proposed Amendment to Past Presidents Parley, #12

CURRENT WORDING: 12. Members of the Department of Wisconsin Past President Parley shall work together to develop and award for the Outstanding Mentor of the Year to acknowledge and recognize such service based on recommendation by unit members in meeting the established criteria of the Past Presidents Parley. This award to be presented at the annual Department Convention from nominations received.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: 12. The Outstanding Mentor of the Year award shall be presented at the annual Department Convention from nominations received per the established criteria. Criteria for the award can be found on the department website under the Past Presidents Parley Program.

Page 66: Proposed Amendment to Past Presidents Parley, #13

Delete: 13. The incoming Department President may choose a Past Department President rather than the National Executive Committeeperson to preside at installation.

Page 67: Proposed Amendment to Unit-County-District, #11

CURRENT WORDING: 11. Any member or officer desiring information on a given program shall write directly to the Department Chair or the Department President as listed in the current Red Book.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: 11. Any member or officer desiring information on a given program may contact the Department Chair or the Department President as listed in the current Red Book.

Page 68: Proposed Amendment to Unit-County-District, #18

CURRENT WORDING: 18. The District President shall be the presiding officer of the District Conference and of all other District meetings; have general advisory powers over Units within the District; be the official representative of the District; and have the authority to designate a District Vice President or other qualified member to represent the District at public ceremonies and meetings.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: 18. The District President shall be the presiding officer of the District Conference and of all other District meetings; provide general program advisory information when requested by the units within the District; be the official representative of the District; and have the authority to designate a District Vice President or other member to represent the District at public ceremonies and meetings.



Committee/Program Reports

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



Sue Hembrook Director of Hospital Volunteers









Hospital Representatives

Middleton Memorial VA Medical Center (Madison): Rep-Sheila Frye / Deputy-Noreen Schmidt

VA Great Lakes Health Care (Tomah):
Rep-Helene Stein / Deputies-Pat Flanders & Mary Fawcett

Zablocki VA Medical Center (Milwaukee):
Rep-Bonnie Jakubczyk / Deputies-Sandra Kaebisch,
Sue Middlestead, & Sue Hembrook

Minneapolis VA Medical Center (Minneapolis, MN):
Associate Rep-Jeanne Williams
Associate Deputy-Karen Taylor

Oscar G Johnson VA Medical Center (Iron Mountain, MI):
Associate Rep-Ann Wender
Associate Deputy-Barb Van Boxtel











Hospital Representatives

Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls: Rep-Nancy Randen / Deputy-Teresa Steinke

Wisconsin Veterans Home at King:
Rep- Alice Bentley
Deputies-Denise Belongia, Pat Daniels, & Dawn Lind

Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove:
Rep-Mary Ellen Crandall / Deputy-Beverly Rhode-Hillman

Dayton Care Center (Kenosha):

Rep-Sue Hembrook / Deputy-Crystal Shaw









A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military,

and their Families



Committee/Program Reports

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Bonnie Jakubczyk











Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation













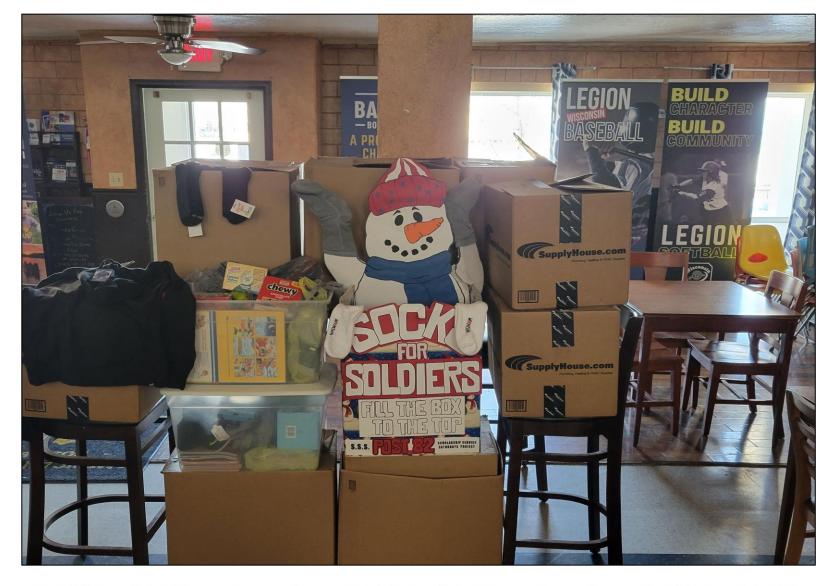








Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation













Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation













Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation





Who we are . . .

If you value patriotism, responsible citizenship, volunteerism, and advocacy for veterans, the military, and their families, you will feel right at home!

We are the male and female spouses, grandmothers, mothers, sisters, and direct & adopted descendants of Veterans!

Come for a Visit!

The Ryan Larson American Legion Auxiliary Unit 65 meets the <u>first</u> Wednesday of each month at the Big Flats Community Church at 5:30 p.m.

More Info:

Jeannine Harn 715-459-3183 Cathy Corbin 608-295-5850











Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Rose-Harms Unit 355 Grafton













Committee/Program Reports

Christmas Gift Shop Diana Sirovina







CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP CONVENTION REMARKS 2025 Diana Sirovina, Chairman

Madam President:

When we think about Christmas, we think cold temperatures and even snow. But for some of us Christmas starts in September when it's still warm and sunny. That's because it's time to begin organizing our annual ALA Christmas Gift Shop! It may seem early, but creating a great experience for our veterans in long-term care facilities takes some time!

After dates for collecting orders were established, the fun began. Shopping, that is! Something Christmas Gift Shop Vice Chair Linda Bartel and I are well qualified to do! Browsing Amazon is always fun, but when we are on a mission to find the perfect gifts for family members of all ages, and stay on budget, it becomes a bit of a challenge. We try to find unique and interesting items, as well as some practical ones. And since some of the veterans have been in these facilities for some time, we try to find different items each year.

After a couple weeks of shopping, we finally had the right gifts to create our gift catalog. This year there were several jewelry items, a lovely, scented candle, and even some Burt's Bees.

There were a few tools, flashlights, barbeque seasonings and even some adult beverage glasses. And of course, toys, games, and Lego's for the kids, among other things.

This year, because of the generosity of our members, we were able to provide our program to not only the veterans at the Zablocki VAMC, the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove, but the members at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King as well.

On two beautiful autumn days, Vice President Sue Hembrook, Joyce Wingers, Linda Bartell, and I got to take a couple road trips to King and Union Grove. As we visited with the veterans when we helped them select their gifts, we could tell by the smiles on their faces that this program means so much to them. Some shared stories about their loved ones, while others were just happy to have someone visit with them for a little while.

We were not able to visit the Zablocki facility this year, so staff graciously helped us by taking orders from the veterans in five different areas.

Then it was time to get organized. Orders were numbered and entered into a master spreadsheet, addresses verified, items counted, and the orders placed on Amazon.

A few days later, the fun really began. First it was a couple packages. Then stacks of boxes of all sizes. One day so many arrived the Amazon Prime driver actually helped me get the packages into the house!

Opening the boxes and sorting all the items was more fun! Orders were checked for accuracy, sorted by veteran, fit into boxes or bubble mailers, weighed, and measured, so they were ready for shipping.

There were a few issues now and then. We had a few items that were out of stock, so a different similar item had to be found and substituted. A couple of things arrived broken and had to be replaced. But overall things went pretty well!

Despite these few complications, the orders were all loaded into large boxes and taken out to my garage to wait for wrapping day. Shipping reports and labels were created so everything was ready to go.

Then the time came to finish the project. A group of dedicated and talented volunteers, including President Becky, gathered at Post 449 one chilly Sunday morning to take on the task of wrapping those 834 gifts. Their enthusiasm was contagious, and the job was done in record time!

We were fortunate to have extra help to finish packing, sealing, and labeling the boxes for shipping. SAL Detachment Commander Allen Watry and Past Detachment Commander Bob Sirovina were a great help and handled all the taping and labeling of the packages. It took over 30 volunteers, 1 department president, 2 SAL men, 2 kids, and our favorite pet from Operation A.L.F. to complete this.

I had contacted the Brookfield Post Office earlier in the week to see if there was even a tiny chance, they might make a special pick up on a Sunday. I was told probably not, but I could contact the supervisor on wrapping day, so I did. That call worked out SO well. The supervisor herself was so interested in our program, she came and helped us load all 265 packages into the Post Office vehicle! And we were done...until next time!

For us, Christmas Gift Shop is an annual event that we look forward to with great enthusiasm. We know that no matter how much time and effort goes into the program, the amount of joy that it brings to our veterans and their families is well worth it. This year our Christmas Gift Shop program, once again, was very successful.

We also received an extra special donation to our program this year. A local law firm, von Briesen & Roper, celebrated 120 years in business in 2024 and decided to make monetary donations to some local charities. Any employee could submit their charity for consideration so I submitted our Christmas Gift Shop program. We were excited to learn

that The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin, was selected to receive \$1,200 from the firm. Our ALA Christmas Gift Shop information was shared in the company newsletter and on our social media pages as well.

It is wonderful to receive this one-time grant, but it's more important to note here that this great program would not be possible without the continuing generous support from units all across Wisconsin. Thank you for remembering our hospitalized veterans and their families at Christmas!

Madam President, this concludes my report.





Christmas Gift Shop













Christmas Gift Shop

Gift options
Christmas Gift Shop
2024



















Christmas Gift Shop













Christmas Gift Shop





Boland Hall Union Grove



Moses Hall King

Diana, Joyce, Sue & Linda visited the Wisconsin Veterans Homes at King & Union Grove to take orders from the veterans











Christmas Gift Shop



Packages arrived!











Christmas Gift Shop

Items checked-in and sorted













Christmas Gift Shop

Orders
packed and
waiting for
wrapping day



















Christmas Gift Shop

Wrapping Day 2024



















Christmas Gift Shop











Wrapping Day 2024











Christmas Gift Shop







And we are done...
till next time!!











Christmas Gift Shop

Thank You

for Supporting

this Great Program!















Committee/Program Reports

Homeless Women Veterans Chrys Porter











Homeless Women Veterans





For your generous support and donations You helped 16 Veterans













Homeless Women Veterans

You were very busy with...







- Gift baskets for fundraising events
- Donations of hygiene and cold weather gear for the homeless
- Donations to your County Veteran Service Office
- Standdowns
- Donations to local food pantries
- Making and filling bags with hygiene items for homeless female veterans











Homeless Women Veterans

12/13/2024 Dear ALA, Words Cannot express my gratitude for accepting my application is helping me during a difficult time! I want you to know how deeply Sincered am when I say"Thank You made such a difference, you from the bottom of my heart!" and it is so deeply appreciated. al will hever fuget this generals act of kindness and promise to pay it forward I wish I could hug you all, & tell you in person. Please accept this Card as a small token of my Sincerest Thanks. I am touched buyond wards. THANK You!









Committee/Program Reports

Service to Veterans Mary Petrie









Service to Veterans

What better way to show our Veterans we care than to realize their needs, then roll up our sleeves to accomplish that mission?

While you're viewing a few reported stats on the screen, here's the mission at work...

Crafters created tray favors and cards for various holidays, Honor Flight mail calls, birthdays, and as a simple *Thank You* for serving! Afghans, lap robes, and various gifts found their way to Veterans. Quilts of Valor and other quilts were also presented, with a special presentation to Purple Heart recipients.

Breakfasts, brunches, luncheons, and dinners were hosted for the Auxiliaries' own Legionnaires and Veterans in the community. Food-related fundraisers served up funding to support Veterans and VA Wish Lists. Unit 171 prepared a dinner for the Post's Honor Guard and helped with a fundraiser for Brothers-in-Arms Motorcycle Club. Unit 401 honored branches of service at a Summer band concert, with pie for all.

Units 288 and 355 have partnered for years, raising thousands of dollars through a Post-to-Post walk. Sweat for Vets.

Several Units invited VA Vets to their Post for fun, food, and entertainment, with Bingo, goody bags, and recognition. Unit 440 planned parties for homeless Vets in a shelter.

Auxiliaries were involved in Memorial Day and Veterans Day public ceremonies, and in assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and schools. Fourth of July proceeds added funds for Veteran programs.

Units enjoyed playing Santa. Unit 44 gifted \$50 each to 11 Veterans in local nursing homes and assisted living. Unit 524 presented Christmas mugs, with the Legion and Auxiliary logos, to their Legionnaires.

The Post 379 family usually observes Giving Tuesday, but their building burned down. Where there's a will, there's a way. Bins placed at a bank awaited food and monetary donations to assure Veterans a happy holiday.

Unit 320 invited area Vets to a special event by the author who wrote "Tailspin," providing lunch and transportation to and from.

A Unit 447 member sews and mends clothes for Veterans, and a Unit 538 member volunteers with the DAV, scheduling rides to VA facilities.

Unit 98 held an "Honor our Female Veterans" day by inviting the women to a monthly meeting. They shared their branch of service, years served, and duties, and received a card and gift.

Unit 65 tries to identify Veterans in need at each meeting. Business cards were printed *saying* "Do you know a Veteran who needs assistance?" and given wherever members go.

Units worked closely with County Service Officers, furnished rides for appointments and errands, and provided gift cards.

Unit 236 coordinated a Vets' fishing trip, helped the Post with computer work, and decorated an American Legion Christmas tree for the community, honoring those who served.

Unit 146 members helped with cleaning, grocery shopping, and cooking, provided haircuts, and delivered lap robes.

Units donated to, and helped with, the Wreaths Across America program.

Caregivers were remembered with a special recognition program, time off, cards, phone calls, and certificates to brighten their day, as well as providing a shoulder to lean on.

It can be difficult for Veterans to ask for help. The ALA has been the go-to organization for over a century and will *never* leave a Hero behind. *Serving from the Heart* is second nature.

Madam President, this concludes my report. I have no resolutions or recommendations. Thank you for allowing me to serve in this chairmanship.



Mary Petrie Service to Veterans Department Chairman 2024-2025





Service to Veterans

Service to Veterans....
We don't know them all, but
we owe them all!!













Service to Veterans



Wisconsin boasts nearly 15,000 members strong Serving From The Heart!

Total Reported Hours: 130,042½ --- 762½ are Junior hours!

Districts receiving the most Summaries: 2nd & 3rd = 29

Most Units reporting: 2nd District = 29 & 10th District = 26

Most hours reported: 1st District = 32,276³/₄ &

 2^{nd} District = 24,379

Total # of Seniors = 1,108 * 3rd District = 296 &

2nd District = 177

Total # of Juniors = 102 * 6th District = 23 & 3rd District = 19











Service to VeteransWorking the Mission...the ALA way!













Service to Veterans

Thank You, Wisconsin!



We Can & Will Continue...
No Hero Will Ever Be Left Behind!





