



**Department of Wisconsin
Ninth District
Sue Keyzers, President**

1025 N Main Street, Seymour, WI 54165
920 246 9044 suekeyzers.ala@gmail.com



*Honor our Country, Support our Veterans
Sue Hembrook*

Happy Valentines Day!

January was a bitter cold month and I imagine most of our members did not venture out if they did not need to. Although I hope many of you made it to the Mid-Winter conference in Green Bay. I was signed up to go, but had a family funeral to attend that day, so was unable to go. I am hoping that some of you will tell me what they learned at the conference to catch me up.

SPRING CONFERENCE

I will be sending along an invitation and registration form for the Spring conference with this email. This is an election year, and we will be looking for a 2nd Vice President. If you would like to help the district by running for this position, please let me know as soon as possible. There is a 4-year learning curve to this spot before you would become President. With just 4 regular meetings and 2 exec meeting this is not a real taxing position. If you are really lucky there will be an ALAITK in the district which would decrease the meetings. A rewarding part of the job is getting to meet members from all over our district. Sometimes I think the hardest part of the job is writing newsletters. I am the 53rd president of the 9th District. There have been presidents from 23 units in the district. That means that there is a lot of help and mentoring available to anyone who would like to try this position.

ALABGS

Hopefully you all have your ALABGS reservation form into Department. Make sure that you contact your school about selecting a delegate. Delegates do not need to register until April 1st, so you still have time. If you were unable to send a delegate, would you consider making a donation to the Program. It is costing us over \$600.00 per delegate and we are charging \$500.00. Any amount will help to continue this worthwhile program.

LEGISLATIVE

Election season is ramping up. Be prepared for political ads and mailings. Watch for who is paying for the ads as one check for bias and a private agenda. Be alert and aware.

The Non-partisan Primary is Feb. 17th. This ballot will include the contested races that are not based on party lines. For example, if you have 3 candidates running for a single school board position that race will be on the primary ballot. If only 2 candidates for a position – no primary. The Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice race has only two candidates so that will be decided in the General Election on April 7th.

Please send pictures (via email NOT Facebook) of your unit members working on the polls, meeting with elected officials and candidates for inclusion in my reports to National. I am proud of what our Auxiliary members do to advocate for our veterans and military.

This Spring Election is the local and school board elections and the Judgeship elections across the state. Judges are to be non-partisan in their ruling, so it is especially important we know their stance on issues. They are the ones that interpret the laws and how they affect us and our communities.

Continue reporting your contacts locally, statewide, and via Grassroots. Wisconsin is routinely in the top 5 for action alerts. Keep up the excellent work in making your voice heard. The Washington DC Conference is Feb. 28 – March 4, 2026, and your impact will be felt.

EXCITING NEWS – For our 1st quarter of our 250 challenge I received reports of over 760 contacts made on all levels. It was a close battle, but the **WINNER is 6th District!** Keep up the great work. The 2nd Quarter winner will be announced in April.

Check out both our Department and National websites for additional resources or contact me directly. Becky Mueller clarenceandbecky@aol.com call/text 920-464-0320

Great Job everyone – stay warm.

Becky Mueller
Dept. of WI Legislative Chair

POPPY VIDEO

With this link you can watch the video about the poppy that was made in Wisconsin by ALA members and veterans. Copy and paste it into your web browser to watch.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6LN5JsQVQ4>. Department is still looking for veterans to make poppies

There are a lot of deadlines that are coming up.

By March 20th - The entry forms for the 9 Pin bowling tournament are due. There is information about the tournament in the December Unit Mailing.

March 15th – The ALA Essay contest winning entries should be submitted to Deanna Farley, W41870 Kimball Lane, Silver Cliff, WI 54104.

March 15th - The Unit Member of the Year Award nominations need to mail to Betty Stone. Check out the attached PDF.

By March 20th – The Membership Dues Billing form is due to Department HQ. This form lets the Dept Office know what you will be charging for Dues in 2026.

By March 28th – Registration for the 9th District Spring Conference mailed to Lisa Wolfinger per directions on form.

By April 15th – Unit Year End Impact Reports are due to me. Please get them to me as soon as possible as I have a daughter getting married on April 25 in North Carolina from April 18 to the 28th and they are due to department on May 1st.

By April 15th – Digital Reports are due to Department HQ. Paper reports can be mailed to department headquarters if you are unable to do it digitally.

April 15th – The Registration for the Junior Spring Conference at Camp American. Camp to be held May 15 to the 17th. Registration form in attached unit mailing By

By May 1st – The 1st place winner in each category of the Poppy Poster should be mailed to Kathy Grom, Poppy Chairperson at 8151 S Waring Drive, Oak Creek, WI 51354. See attached contest rules.

May 22th – 2026 Unit Member Collection Person form need to be into Department HQ no later than this date. Form in attached Unit Mailing.

If I have missed any that you know of, please let me know so I can add them for the next newsletter.

NOTICE

Please see the attached memo from The American Legion's Judge Advocate, Mark Seavey, regarding DD214's. Posts or units should review a veteran's DD214 to verify membership eligibility, but should NEVER retain a copy of the DD214. Please share this information with any American Legion Auxiliary members within your reach of distribution, especially those responsible for membership verification.



**Department of Wisconsin
Ninth District**

Sue Keyzers, President

1025 N Main Street, Seymour, WI 54165

920 246 9044 suekeyzers.ala@gmail.com



*Honor our Country, Support our Veterans
Sue Hembrook*

Greetings,

The Annual Spring Conference for the 9th District of the American Legion Auxiliary will be held on Saturday, April 11th at the Woods Golf Club, 530 Erie Road, Green Bay, WI. This will be a joint conference with the Legion. You are all invited and encouraged to come as this is one of only 2 times a year when we get together to share our story. Please fill in the attached reservation form and return by due date.

Each Unit is asked to bring a picture story board with a short report (3 min) to tell us what your unit has done in the last year. Make it a fun adventure. Have your unit members help put it together. And remember to put all of your newspaper articles on the board.

Each unit is asked to bring a Raffle Basket to the meeting. The funds from this and the cash raffle go a long way in supporting the district donations.

This year we will have about \$500.00 to donate throughout the district. Please let me know where you would like that money to go. I cannot guarantee anything, but will try to spread the money around. We will not take any donations from the floor at the meeting.

Even if you will not be able to attend the Conference, please fill in the Memorial sheet and return it to ??? as soon as possible.

Please respond to this email with your Unit # and a "got it", or "I need it mailed to me". If I do not hear from you by Friday, February 18th, I will assure that you did not get the email and mail a copy to you snail mail. Please help the District postage.

I look forward to seeing you at the Spring Conference on April 11th.

Sincerely

Sue Keyzers

9th District President

See attached form

Ninth District Joint Legion and Auxiliary Spring Conference

The Units of Brown County of The American Legion Auxiliary
invites you to the 104th Spring Conference.

Saturday, April 11, 2026
The Woods Golf Club
530 Erie Road
Green Bay, WI 54311

Registration: 8 – 8:45 \$2.00 per person
Coffee and rolls will be available
Lunch: \$18.00 per person

Lunch Menu: Broasted Chicken Dinner
Meal will be served Family Style

Please detach and mail with remittance no later than March 27th, 2026

Lisa Wolfinger
407 Whitney Street, Kaukauna, WI 5413
Phone # 920-766-7911(landline)
Please make check payable to: 9th District ALA

Please detach and send with check payable to ALA Outagamie County Council

Number Attending	_____	Registration	\$2.00 each	(total) \$	_____
Number of Lunches	_____	Price per Lunch	\$18.00 each	(total) \$	_____
Total Enclosed				\$	_____

Unit # _____
Unit City _____
Contact Name _____
Contact Phone # _____
Contact email _____

Please Print Names

Names of members attending for name tags:

Reminder: ALA Wisconsin Poppy Program – Deadlines & Rules

Dear Unit Presidents and Unit Poppy Chairs,

This is a friendly reminder about the ALA Wisconsin Poppy Poster Contest, an annual opportunity for students to honor veterans through creativity and patriotism. I've also listed our other program deadlines as well. Please contact your local schools and organizations to promote our children's participation. Without your support, we could not have such great response from our talented youth.



Important Wisconsin Deadlines

- April 1: *Units submit the Poppy Award Cover Sheet with narrative for "Most Outstanding Unit Poppy Program."*
- May 1: *Units select one winning Poppy Poster from each class and forward them to the Department Chairman (with completed Poppy Poster Cover Form).*
- May 1: *Units also submit their Little Miss Poppy nomination.*



Contest Eligibility & Classes

Students may participate through local schools or youth groups sponsored by an ALA Unit. Contest classes are:

- Class I: Grades 2–3
- Class II: Grades 4–5
- Class III: Grades 6–7
- Class IV: Grades 8–9
- Class V: Grades 10–11
- Class VI: Grade 12
- Class VII: Students with special needs



Official Poster Rules

- Posters must be created on 11" x 14" poster board.
- Each poster must include a fitting slogan of no more than 10 words.
 - Articles such as *a, an, and, the* do not count toward the word limit.
 - The words "buddy" and "buy" may not be used.
- Posters must feature the red Flanders Field poppy as the central theme.
- Work must be the student's own, completed under the supervision of the sponsoring ALA Unit or school.
- Only one winning poster per class may be forwarded by each Unit.



Purpose of the Program

The Poppy Program helps educate youth and the public about the significance of the poppy and its role in supporting veterans, military members, and their families. If you have any questions or need additional materials, please reach out.

Thank you for supporting this meaningful program and encouraging students to honor our veterans through art.

Warm regards,

Kathy Grom

American Legion Auxiliary – Wisconsin

Poppy Chairman



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

UNIT MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Unit Member of the Year recognizes those serving at the unit level who exemplify the values and ideals of the Auxiliary and whose accomplishments significantly impact the program work in their units. The Nomination form can be downloaded from the Department of Wisconsin website at amlegionauxwi.org/leadership and are due to the Leadership Chairman by **March 15, 2026**.

Requirements:

- Open to senior members in good standing who are not currently, nor have ever been, in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than Unit President.
- Accomplishments and activities must be achieved during the 2025-2026 ALA year. You may add other relevant information, as needed.
- Units must submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less describing the nominee's accomplishments and activities together with the nominee's name and address.

A Unit Member of the Year from each department will be recognized annually at the American Legion Auxiliary Department and National Conventions.

SALUTE TO SERVICEMEMBERS AWARD

Established in 2003, this award honors one enlisted servicemember (pay grade E1-E9) from each branch of service (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Space Force) as well as the National Guard/Reserve.

Requirements:

- The nominating person submits a narrative discussing the reason for the nomination.
 - <https://www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers-Award-Form>
- A picture of the servicemember (preferably official Department of Defense photograph),
- Endorsement from a member of their command group must be included.
- The nominating form, along with all supporting documentation, must be completed and submitted by **June 1, 2026, 5:00 PM EDT**.

The servicemember will be invited to speak to the general assembly of the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention as a guest of the American Legion Auxiliary. If operational requirements prevent the servicemember's attendance at National Convention then other arrangements for their presentation to the general assembly will be made.

LEADERSHIP

Betty Stone, Dept Chrm
bjstone626@hotmail.com

715-452-5329

Unit Member of the Year Award

NATIONAL SECURITY

Bob Shappell, Dept Chrm
bobshap@aol.com

414-899-4067

Salute to Servicemembers Award

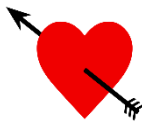


Bi-Monthly Unit Mailing February/March 2026

This mailing includes:



- Greetings from Department President Sue Hembrook
- Greetings from Department Headquarters
- Annual Reports reminder
- Unit Member of the Year & Salute to Servicemembers Awards info flyer
- ALA Convention: Resolution instructions & blank form
- Children & Youth article
- Constitution & Bylaws article
- Education / M. Louise Wilson Education Loan Fund article
- Navigating ALA Scholarships 101 info sheet
- Junior Activities article
- Junior Activities 2026 Spring Conference registration form
- Membership article
- 2026 Unit Membership Dues Billing Amounts form
- 2026 Unit Membership Dues Collection Person form
- National Security article
- Past Presidents Parley article
- PPP Scholarship & dues donation form
- Standing Rules article & word search puzzle
- VA&R: Christmas Gift Shop recap
- Dates and Deadlines/Redbook Corrections



American Legion Auxiliary Mission Statement:

In the spirit of Service, Not Self the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

The Monthly Unit Mailing is posted on the Wisconsin Department website under the Unit Mailing link.

www.amlegionauxwi.org



Save The Date

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY
2026 TESTIMONIAL DINNER
Saturday, April 11, 2026

STRAWBERRY CREEK
14810 72nd Street, Kenosha WI 53142

Please check The American Legion or Auxiliary websites for details coming soon!!!

Greetings from Department President Sue Hembrook...

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday with relatives and friends. The Holidays are a wonderful time to visit and enjoy; however, they are also hectic. All the preparations that go into keeping up our traditions can become overwhelming. Hopefully, everyone is rested up and ready to support our mission with renewed energy.

Mid-Winter was a huge success, and it was so delightful to see all that were able to attend. The attendance for the Legion Family was the largest since the Covid epidemic. The sessions were very informative and the feedback was so very positive. I would love to hear your comments so that they can be passed on for ideas and consideration of topics in the future. Please forward your comments to wipres2526@gmail.com.

In addition to the learning experiences, Mid-Winter proved to be an excellent chance to catch up with friends from around the Department. Also, it was so exciting to meet all the members that came for the first time. Friendships were formed and it is always so exciting to interact with one another in person. Zoom is an excellent avenue for meetings, however in person adds that personal touch.

The main focus of the Auxiliary session was the on-line reporting process. It was well received and everyone was excited at the ease of the program. Our own Carrie Thrasher did a wonderful job on tweaking the program for our Department's needs.

The program mirrors the National program, and it is our wish that many more units will find it easy to apply for National awards. Yes, units can apply on their own for awards. If the unit does apply on their own, we do ask you send a copy to the Department Chairman and your District President.

We all need to communicate and be able to celebrate each other's accomplishments. Please remember that you need to fill out each program's report even if you did not work that particular program. You will need to fill out the top portion, down to the question if you worked the program. It will then ask you yes or no if you worked the program. If your answer is yes, continue on. If your answer is no, you can stop there and submit. This will ensure you are counted as reporting for that particular program. It would be wonderful to see our reporting percentages go up.

Thank you so very much for all you do for our veterans, military and their families. Your donations to our many programs are so very generous and appreciated. You are all valuable members of our Department!!! Thank you!!!

Sue Hembrook, Department President
Department President
wipres2526@gmail.com • 262-945-9791



GREETINGS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin
Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Bonnie Dorniak
www.amlegionauxwi.org ~ deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org ~ 608-745-0124

ALA BADGER GIRLS STATE

Unit reservations were due 1/31/2026 with payment of \$500 per delegate. Please send ASAP if you have not done so already.

Anyone who wishes to support the general operations of ALABGS may do so by scanning the QR code.

NOTE: To eliminate the default service fee in the Donation Summary section, click on the drop-down arrow by 'Learn More,' select Other, and enter \$0.00. **100% of your donation will go to ALABGS!**



CANDIDATES FOR DEPARTMENT & NATIONAL OFFICES

Candidates for department or national offices must email their announcement (300-350 words) with a head/shoulder photo to deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org by March 16, 2026 for publication in the April issue of the *Wisconsin*.

Scholarships APPLICATIONS

All department scholarship applications are due from students to Unit Presidents by March 1st. Unit Presidents should ensure applications are completed correctly and all required attachments are included before signing and forwarding them to Education Chair Delores Woolf by March 15th. Late applications will not be considered.

Students must submit national scholarships online by March 1st. Essays generated with AI will be disqualified. See the website for more details.

PPP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Units that want to support the Past Presidents Parley Scholarships designated for students pursuing an education in nursing or health careers should mail a check with the donation form on the department website. Unit donations help ensure these scholarships continue as the need for nurses and other healthcare professionals increases.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICES

The national organization mailed final membership dues renewal notices in early February. To expedite processing, members may pay the National organization at 317-569-4570 or www.ALAforVeterans.org. If a unit receives dues, they should forward them immediately to Department.

Members who have not paid their 2026 dues are now delinquent and lost all privileges of membership. The Unit may want to pay dues for older members who cannot afford to maintain their membership (honorary life membership).

ANNUAL REPORTS

All reports are due April 15, 2026. Fillable forms are available on the department website.

1. UNIT YEAR-END IMPACT REPORT – a numeric report that the national organization uses to report the Auxiliary's impact to Congress. Every Unit President should submit a Unit Year-End Impact Report to their District President.
2. UNIT PROGRAM REPORTS – descriptive reports used to explain a unit's activities. When Unit Program Reports are submitted electronically, they are emailed directly to the appropriate department chairman - saving time, paper and postage! Units that prefer to mail reports to department headquarters may continue to do so. If a unit wants a hard copy of the report forms, submit an Annual Program Report Order Form with \$5 to HQ. See www.amlegionauxwi.org, 'Annual Reports' for details.

CONTESTS & AWARDS

Contests & Awards information is posted on the department website under each respective program. **Don't forget to nominate a Unit Member of the Year, Mentor of the Year, and Service Member of the Year for recognition!** See the Leadership, PPP, and National Security programs for details for each nomination. Questions? Please contact the Department Chairman.

ALTERNATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 2026 National Convention will be held in Louisville, Kentucky from August 28-September 3, 2026. Members interested in serving as an alternate to national convention should contact their District President. The nomination selection process is determined by each district, usually at their spring conference. Names of nominees must be sent to Department Headquarters as soon as selected but no later than June 1st.

*City of
Louisville*

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE



- **APRIL 1 - MEMBER REPORT DUE TO UNIT PRESIDENT**
- **APRIL 15 – UNIT YEAR-END IMPACT REPORT DUE TO DISTRICT PRESIDENT**
- **APRIL 15 - PROGRAM REPORT –**
Digital submittals through the department website are preferred, but hard copies may be mailed to ALA Department HQ: (PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901-0140).
- **MAY 1 – DISTRICT YEAR-END REPORT DUE TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS**

**ANNUAL REPORT FORMS CAN BE ACCESSED ON THE
ALA WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT WEBSITE:**

www.amlegionauxwi.org



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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Requirements:

- The nominating person submits a narrative discussing the reason for the nomination.
 - <https://www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers-Award-Form>
- A picture of the servicemember (preferably official Department of Defense photograph),
- Endorsement from a member of their command group must be included.
- The nominating form, along with all supporting documentation, must be completed and submitted by **June 1, 2026, 5:00 PM EDT**.

The servicemember will be invited to speak to the general assembly of the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention as a guest of the American Legion Auxiliary. If operational requirements prevent the servicemember's attendance at National Convention then other arrangements for their presentation to the general assembly will be made.

LEADERSHIP

Betty Stone, Dept Chrm
bjstone626@hotmail.com

715-452-5329

Unit Member of the Year Award

NATIONAL SECURITY

Bob Shappell, Dept Chrm
bobshap@aol.com

414-899-4067

Salute to Servicemembers Award



Department of Wisconsin
2026 American Legion Auxiliary Convention

RESOLUTIONS - INSTRUCTIONS

A resolution is a written, formal motion. If written well, the resolution makes it easier for members to consider the proposal. Importance, length and complexity of the motion, and size and formality of the assembly are major considerations in using resolutions.

A resolution has two sections – the resolving clauses and the reasons. Resolving clauses tell the specifics of the proposal. The main reasons a motion should be adopted are included in the “Whereas” clauses. Neither section should include more clauses than are absolutely necessary. Simple, but specific, is best.

Once the main motion is determined, develop three to five statements to support its adoption. These are the “Whereas” clauses. These points should be the most important and least controversial arguments for the motion. Again, it is important to stay focused on the points that are strictly necessary. Leave other points for the discussion.

When the resolution is finally written, it begins with the “Whereas” clauses and ends with the resolved clauses. *Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised* prescribes the proper format, capitalization and punctuation of a resolution.

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wisconsin Bylaws, Article II, Section 1, Subsection 1, requires that the Department President shall, not less than 90 days prior to the annual department convention, appoint the following convention committees:

- d. Resolutions
 - i. Committee shall consist of a chairman 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 Headquarters 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.

Once the Resolutions Committee and other appropriate chairs/committees have acted on all resolutions, the Resolutions Chair will report recommendations to the convention delegates.



Department of Wisconsin
2026 American Legion Auxiliary Convention

RESOLUTION

(must be submitted to Department Headquarters no later than June 1, 2026)

Submitted by:

Unit Name: _____ City _____ Unit # _____ Dist. # _____

Contact Name: _____ Phone # (____) _____

Subject: _____ Date: _____

Signature of UNIT President/Secretary: _____ Date: _____

Signature of DISTRICT President/Secretary: _____ Date: _____

Resolution:

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY:

Resolution # _____ Program: _____

Committee Chair Name/Signature: _____

_____ Date: _____ ☐ Approved ☐ Rejected ☐ Revised

_____ Date: _____ ☐ Approved ☐ Rejected ☐ Revised

_____ Date: _____ ☐ Approved ☐ Rejected ☐ Revised

Convention Action: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected Date: _____
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***'If you make children happy now,
you make them happy twenty years hence by the memory of it.'***
- Unknown -

Children are like sponges, absorbing everything around them. A child receiving A.L.F. at a deployment or during a hospital stay will forever remember that moment. ALA Mission Accomplished!

Delegates attending Badger Girls State treasure the week-long event – knowledge gained, special friendships made, and a once-in-a-lifetime experience. ALA Mission Accomplished!

No doubt each of us can recall a particular memory from our own childhood that still brings a smile. Now, we as ALA members have the opportunity to create beautiful memories through the C & Y program. Once again, ALA Mission Accomplished!

Supporting these programs is a gift from the heart, which strongly impacts the lives of our children and youth. For instance, some of the more well-known Badger Girls include Denise Rohan, Past National American Legion Commander, Jane Pauley, broadcast journalist, Leeza Gibbons, talk show host and reporter, Michelle Johnson, Brigadier General and first female Wing Commander, U.S. Air Force Academy, and Lynne Cheney, wife of former VP Richard Cheney. Very impressive, and if asked, they would probably attribute part of their success to Badger Girls State experiences!

Have you checked out the WI C&Y Program Engagement Plan (PEP)? There's still plenty of time to review ideas, valuable resources, and what you can do to encourage and support our youngsters to live up to their potential. They are our future!

April is fast-approaching. Are you planning for the Month of the Military Child and/or April 15th's Purple Up! Day? Have you shared the Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony or submitted Youth Hero and Good Deed Awards and presented them? Remember, only ALA members can submit potential award recipients. Have you emailed pictures of C&Y events to this chairman? (jpeg only, please! Mailed pictures accepted for other purposes.)

The ALA website (www.amlegionauxwi.org) offers more ideas and information, Report everything! Year-End reports are due April 15th. ALA Mission Accomplished!

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for our children and youth.

Mary Petrie
Department C&Y Chairman
mmrtpetrie@charter.net
808 E. Cady St., Watertown WI 53094



CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Diana Sirovina, Department Chairman

dsirovina@icloud.com

It's winter, it's cold and spring seems so very far away! Perhaps you are asking yourself why a Constitution & Bylaws article would start out talking about the weather. The answer is really quite simple! It's winter and we are always looking for something to do when we really don't want to go outdoors. It's a great time to get your C&B out and do a review. With the magic of technology, you can get together on a Zoom and discuss the documents with other members.

As you are reviewing, here are a few things to keep in mind, so your unit will be ready for the spring elections!

Your bylaws need to include an article describing in detail when your election will take place, who is to be elected, how voting is done, how long the officers will serve, and when the installation ceremony will take place.

Here's a sample of what your bylaws article should look like:

Article I

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall be elected [annually or biennially??] at the (month) meeting by a majority of the ballots cast. When there is but one candidate for an office, the nominee can be elected by voice vote or acclamation.

Section 2. The First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, Historian, Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms shall be elected [annually or biennially??] at the (month) meeting by plurality vote of the ballots cast. When there is but one candidate, the nominee can be elected by voice vote or acclamation.

Section 3. The Secretary, Parliamentarian and Assistant Chaplain shall be appointed by the Unit President subject to the approval of the Unit Executive Board and shall hold office at the will of the appointive power.

Section 4. All Unit officers elected or appointed shall serve for one term (one or two years??) or until their successors are elected. A term shall start at the next meeting following the meeting when the installation is performed and end with the Installation of Officers in the following election year.

Note that this is just an example and your document should reflect which officers are elected and which are appointed.

Enjoy the rest of this winter, stay warm, and take some time to look at your documents. The good part of all this is that if you take the time on these awfully cold winter days to read and review your operating documents, you will be ready when spring and election time comes! If you need any assistance, please feel free to email me at the address listed above!



EDUCATION / M. LOUISE WILSON LOAN FUND

Delores Woolf, Department Chairman
deloreswoolf@gmail.com ♦ 608-348-7403

New Year's greetings to all ALA units in Wisconsin. Following our summer and fall activities in communicating with local school needs and promoting scholarships at the local, department and national levels of the ALA, it is time to continue working our Education program. Look ahead to the March 1, 2026, deadline for the national scholarships: Children of Warriors, Spirit of Youth, Non-Traditional Student, and Member Loyalty. These scholarships have online applications with information for eligibility requirements, completion details, and how to submit the applications to the national organization.

Department scholarship applications are online with a pdf to download, complete and submit to the local ALA unit for the president or secretary to sign. These are due from students to the unit by March 1, 2026, and to the Department Education Chairman by March 15, 2026. The turnaround time is quick, so it is best to get it done earlier. Have applicants read directions carefully and if they have questions, please feel free to contact me. All of these applications are available at www.amlegionauxwi.org/education-mlw. The beauty of the department scholarship form is that the applicant completes the personal information page and indicates which scholarship opportunities apply to them.

The M. Louise Wilson Loan Fund application is online as well. This is an interest-free loan for students who are ALA members and requires a co-signer. The loan is paid back in workable installments after graduation or if the student leaves school. Thank you to all units who have made monetary donations to the M. Louise Wilson Loan Fund.

Units should download the Give 10 to Education suggested donation and track monies and materials given for their Education program. This includes unit scholarships and other activities that support education in the community. Be sure to partner with community organizations, encourage word of mouth referrals, use social media platforms, and advertise in local media (tv, radio, newspaper).

Other important times for the Education program are Purple Up! Day for military children on April 15, 2026, and Teacher Appreciation Week from May 4-8, 2026. Above all, complete your annual reports on time so information can be incorporated in the department reports. Let's all be part of the village to raise the child by promoting our ALA programs.

Navigating ALA Scholarships 101

WHAT ARE THE ALA NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS?

Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship: One of the ways the American Legion Auxiliary serves our country's veterans and their families. Given to high school seniors who are direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans.

Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members: One of the ways the American Legion Auxiliary gives to those who are Junior members. Given to current ALA Junior members who are high school seniors and who have been Junior members for the past three years.

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship: One of the ways the ALA helps those part of The American Legion Family, veterans, and veteran or active-duty military spouses pursue a college degree later in life or allow them to pick up where they left off when their studies were interrupted.

Member Loyalty Scholarship: One of the ways the ALA helps former American Legion Auxiliary Junior members who retain their membership into adulthood. Given to current college students.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Be sure to check if your scholarship requires providing letters of recommendation. Please have your reference include their contact information. Letters of recommendation from family members will not be accepted.



Letters of recommendation must be received by the March 1 deadline.

The letters of recommendation may be attached to the scholarship application directly or emailed to education@ALAforVeterans.org.

If letters of recommendation are emailed, please include the name of the student, as well as the scholarship for which the student is applying in the subject line.



Check out more information
about our ALA national
scholarships using the QR
code above.

Or visit
[www.ALAforVeterans.org/
scholarships](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/scholarships)

Who do I contact with
questions?
Email National
Headquarters at
education@ALAforVeterans.org.

**"I want to express my
heartfelt appreciation
to the kind and
generous individuals
who contribute to the
scholarship funds of the
ALA. Their
support
provides
financial
assistance
and opens
doors of
opportunities for students
like me."**

**— Latisha Wagner,
Non-Traditional Student
Scholarship Recipient**





JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Dr. Christine Johnsen, Department Chairman
Email: cmj102@aol.com ♦ Cell: (715) 203-2015

Morgan Johnsen, Junior Activities Vice-Chairman

Thank you to everyone who supported the Juniors at the Midwinter Conference by purchasing KwikTrip cards and buttons! Your support is greatly appreciated as we work toward our goal of purchasing four kayaks for Camp American Legion. You can continue to purchase Kwik Trip cards and personalized Honor buttons through the form or Zeffy link available on the Junior Activities program page on the Department website.

Once again, we will hold our **Department of Wisconsin Junior Activities Spring Conference at Camp American Legion!!** It will be held on the weekend of May 15-17, 2026. Hopefully it will be a little warmer and drier this year, so we can do more outdoor activities. The official business meeting will be on Saturday, May 15, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in the main lodge. This will include the business meeting, election and installation of Honorary Department Junior officers, lunch, and a Camp American Legion service activity.

We can also stay overnight at Camp for the weekend! All campers will sleep indoors in a cabin or the main lodge. The weather will determine our activities, but we anticipate several veteran service projects and Patch activities during the day and campfires at night. You can choose to stay one or both nights or only attend the Saturday business meeting. Please indicate these details on the registration form. Overnight campers should arrive *no earlier* than 5:00 pm on Friday, May 15, and everyone must depart Camp by 12:00 noon on Sunday, May 17. Registration for the Conference and lunch on Saturday is \$10. There is an additional \$5 per night fee to help defray the cost of meals/snacks for those staying overnight. Meals will be served from the evening meal on Friday through breakfast on Sunday.

Registration forms must be received by **April 15, 2026**. Additional information, including what to bring, will be sent out to all registrants by email, and will be available on the ALA Wisconsin website at www.amlegionauxwi.org/junioractivities, in May. As we work to *Honor and Support Our Veterans*, we look forward to seeing many Juniors at the Department of Wisconsin Junior Activities Spring Conference!



DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN SPRING JUNIOR CONFERENCE

Camp American Legion
8529 County D
Lake Tomahawk, WI 54539



Friday, May 15, 2026, 5:00 pm – Sunday, May 17, 2026, 12:00 noon

Your 2026 Junior Spring Conference main event will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Camp American Legion. This will include the business meeting, election and installation of Honorary Department Junior Officers, lunch, and a Camp American Legion service activity.

As we work in the spirit to *Honor and Support Our Veterans*, we also have the opportunity to stay overnight at Camp for the weekend, to participate in additional veteran service projects, Patch projects, games, campfires, and so much more!

Registration for the Conference and lunch on Saturday is \$10. There is an additional \$5 per night fee to help defray the cost of meals/snacks for those staying overnight. Meals will be served from the evening meal on Friday through breakfast on Sunday. Additional information will be sent by email to registrants in early May and will be available on the ALA Wisconsin website at www.amlegionauxwi.org/junioractivities.

Please call/text Christine Johnsen at 715-203-2015, or email at cmj102@aol.com, with any questions.

2026 JUNIOR AUXILIARY SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Registration must be received by **April 15, 2026**

Form submitted by (please print clearly):

Name: _____ District #: _____ Unit #: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

NAME / UNIT #	Grade	First time attendee? (Yes/No)	Junior member	Senior member	Overnight Friday (Yes/No) (\$5)	Attending Saturday Meeting Only (Yes/No) (\$10)	Overnight Saturday (Yes/No) (\$5)	Total for Registration & Meals
Totals								\$

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

**Please send registration form with check payable to American Legion Auxiliary to:
Christine Johnsen, 159991 Granite Road, Wausau, WI 54403**



MEMBERSHIP

Welcome 2026!

Let's get into some basics of your membership in the American Legion Auxiliary. Your membership to the ALA goes from January 1st - December 31st. If you are an officer in your unit, county, district or department, and you have not yet renewed your membership, you are no longer a member in good standing and cannot hold your position nor will you have voting rights and in fact, become delinquent and suspended from all membership privileges.

The quickest way to rectify this is to renew your membership. It is good practice for any officer to renew as soon as September 1st for the following year. This eliminates the possibility of losing your position and losing your voting rights. Besides, it sets a good precedence for your members when the officers renew early. Any member that has not yet renewed, cannot vote and are suspended from all membership privileges until they have renewed. My recommendation is to renew early to avoid any issues.

As an American Legion Auxiliary member, you bring untold value to the organization and America's veterans through your service to our mission. To show our appreciation for your membership, the ALA has partnered with businesses that share our values to bring you exclusive discounts and savings!

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is a national grant assistance program that provides disaster and hardship assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have endured a significant financial setback as the result of a disaster or other qualifying incident.

SCHOLARSHIPS

As a member, especially a junior member, the American Legion Auxiliary has many, many scholarship opportunities, both with Department and National. A complete list of scholarships available are listed in the 2025-2026 Red Book. And exclusive to the Department of Wisconsin is the M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan Fund. The purpose of this fund is to aid women veterans and female members of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary to attain a higher education.

PUBLICATIONS

Senior members receive the national magazine "National American Legion Auxiliary Magazine. The Department of Wisconsin also has a bi-monthly newspaper - the American Legion Auxiliary *Wisconsin*, which is included within The American Legion's *Badger Legionnaire* publication. The Department of Wisconsin is considered a "premiere" department, and our members are often within the pages of the national magazine!

More

There are many other benefits to being a member from Insurance to Shopping. A full listing can be found on the department website: www.amlegionauxwi.org

Wisconsin Membership continues soaring in the Central Division, just behind Iowa at 82.71%. I encourage all membership chairs at unit, county, and district to reach out to your non-paid members. Ask how they are doing, encourage them to continue their membership, and if they are not willing to, ask why and what we can do to fix their issues.

I also ask that you do some RV calling — “Reach out and Visit” with members that no longer come to meetings or may be in nursing homes and just check up on them. We all need a little kindness in today’s world. Let it start with you! ~ Christina Petranovich



MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY EXPLAINED

Know a potential member? Use this information for recruiting!

RELATIONSHIP TO VETERAN:



- ★ MOTHER
- ★ DAUGHTER
- ★ SISTER
- ★ GRANDMOTHER
- ★ GRANDDAUGHTER
- ★ SELF — FEMALE VETERANS WHO HAVE SERVED
- ★ MALE or FEMALE SPOUSE

ELIGIBILITY PERIODS:

April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941



For more information, please visit www.ALAforVeterans.org

TWO PATHS FOR ALA ELIGIBILITY:

PATH ONE:

The potential member is related to a living veteran by one of the relationships stated at left and the veteran is living AND a current member of The American Legion.



If the potential member is a female veteran, she only needs to have served during the eligible time periods to be eligible for ALA membership.



PATH TWO:

The potential member is related to a deceased veteran who served during the eligible time periods and was honorably discharged.



The deceased veteran did not have to be a member of The American Legion in order for the potential member to join the ALA.



PLEASE RENEW IN SERVICE TO OUR VETERANS. THANK YOU!

Membership Team:

Christina Petranovich, Department Chairman

christina.petranovich@yahoo.com

Diane Burkhalter, Committee

burkhalterdl@gmail.com

Claudia Osero, Committee

countonclaudia@gmail.com

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
PO Box 140 – Portage WI 53901
Phone: 608-745-0124 – Fax: 608-745-1947 – email: alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

2027 Unit Membership Dues Billing Amounts

THIS IS NOT A BILL. DO NOT SEND MONEY

Unit City Location _____ Unit # _____ Dist. # _____

This form must be returned by EVERY unit no later than March 20, 2026.

Available in fillable format on the Department website www.amlegionauxwi.org / Programs / Membership

The amounts listed below will be the amount EACH Senior and Junior will be billed for 2027.

2027 Dues Rates								
	National Dues Rate	+	Department Dues Rate	+	Insert Your Unit's Portion of Dues below	=	Total Dues = Natl + Dept + Unit Portion	
Senior Dues	\$18.00	+	\$16.00	+	_____	=	_____	Total dues to be collected from <u>EACH</u> Senior member. (born in 2008 or earlier)
Junior Dues	\$2.50	+	\$2.75	+	_____	=	_____	Total dues to be collected from <u>EACH</u> Junior member (born in 2009 or later)

Please indicate in the **Total Dues box** above how much your Unit Dues are **per INDIVIDUAL member**. This amount will be reported to National for you unit members **2027** membership dues billing.

If your unit collects only the minimum fill in \$34.00 for Total Dues per senior box and \$5.25 Total Dues per junior box.

Signature of person completing this form

Date

2027 Unit Membership Dues Collection Person

Unit City Location _____ Unit # _____ Dist. # _____

This form must be returned by EVERY unit no later than May 22, 2026.

Available in fillable format on the Department website www.amlegionauxwi.org / Programs / Membership

Who & Where are your unit members supposed to send their 2027 dues to?

The person and address listed below will receive all 2027 membership materials AND be printed on each Renewal Notice as the person and **MAILING** address your unit members are to send their 2027 dues to.

2027 Unit Dues Remittance Person (Membership Chairman)

This is the PERSON to whom dues and membership related items should be mailed to.

Name: _____

Member ID number (REQUIRED): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

2027 Unit Dues Remittance Address

This is the ADDRESS all members should send their dues to, AND Department should send all membership related items to.

☐

Personal Address

☐

Unit Address

☐

Post Address

Street OR PO Box – (not both): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

I understand that the above name and address will be printed on all 2027 Membership Renewal Notices National will be sending out.

Signature of person completing this form

Date



NATIONAL SECURITY

Bob Shappell, Department Chairman
bobshap@aol.com

Do you want to recognize and honor military members in your community who dedicate themselves not just to their profession, but to the community as well? Established in 2003, the Salute to Servicemembers Award honors all enlisted personnel (E1-E9) who are currently serving our country in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force and the National Guard/Reserve (a total of seven awards). Recipients will attend the National Convention as guests of the Auxiliary.

Nomination Process: To nominate someone, complete the Formstack and write a narrative (up to 1,000 words) explaining why the individual deserves recognition. Be sure to highlight their military honors and community impact. An endorsement letter from their command group and a current photo in uniform (preferably an official DOD photo) are also required. The deadline for nominations is June 1, 2026.

You can find the nomination form here: www.legion-aux.org/salute-to-servicemembers-award-form

Have questions? Join an informational Zoom meeting being held on February 3, 2026, at 6:30 PM CST. The session will review the nomination process and provide examples. This meeting is open to ALL members.

Register here:

legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/salute_to_servicemembers_nomination_review

If you need even more inspiration, check out last year's award recipients here:

member.legion-aux.org/Blog/2025-ALA-Salute-to-Servicemembers-Award-winners-ho

This is a great way to honor a member of your community (and their family). It's also the final step in our National Security challenge. Units that completed the first 4 tasks can complete this final step to be considered for Unit National Security Program of the Year for the Department AND be entered in a drawing to win a meal provided by the Program Chairman at your Unit meeting. Don't miss out on this opportunity!



PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY
Diane Weggen, Department Chairman

New this year...

A **citation will be awarded at Department Convention** to the unit that describes in 500 words or less how they **worked with the American Legion Family** to fund-raise for Past Presidents Parley scholarships. That narrative along with pictures is due May 15, 2026, to Chr. Diane Weggen. Email dsweggen@gmail.com or call 715-644-2668 for questions and submission.

Honor your past president mentors by nominating them for the

PAST PRESIDENT PARLEY MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD.

Has your mentor served as a county, district or department president and continues to be actively working to serve your unit and other members? Maybe this is the perfect time to recognize this past president who has and is making a positive difference.

Criteria to consider when recommending a nominee:

1. Must be a member in good standing
2. Has a history of being involved in multiple levels of the organization
3. Held leadership roles on the unit, county, district and/or department levels
4. Leads by example
5. Demonstrates passion in working the mission of the ALA.
6. Willing to work in the background, not seeking recognition for their actions
7. Takes a personal interest in the future leaders of the organization
8. Attends District and Department events when possible
9. Is open to change in the American Legion Auxiliary
10. Supports focus on working as an American Legion Family

To nominate someone for this award, a letter of nomination not to exceed 1000 words must be postmarked by May 15th to Past Presidents Parley Chairman, Diane Weggen, 16266 361st Street, Stanley WI 54768 or email to dsweggen@gmail.com.

Unit CITY location _____ Unit # _____ Date _____



NURSING/HEALTHCARE SCHOLARSHIPS DONATION

Harriet Hubbard Registered Nurse Scholarships – Applicant must be in nursing school or have positive acceptance to an accredited hospital or university Registered Nurse program.

Health Career Scholarships – course of study need not be a 4-year program. Hospital, university, or technical school program is acceptable.

These scholarships are funded by the Past Presidents Parley through a legacy from Harriet Hubbard and unit donations. The number of scholarships awarded is determined by the amount of donations received.

Units do not need to have a Parley group to support these scholarships.

☐ Yes, our Unit would like to donate to the scholarship fund in the amount of \$ _____ ①

☐ Yes, the following members would like to pay their 2026 PPP Dues (\$7/person):

NOTE: PPP membership coincides with ALA membership.

PPP members whose dues are not paid by 2/1/2026 will be dropped.

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY MEMBERSHIP

(please print legibly)

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

List additional names on separate sheet if necessary

Number of names listed _____ @ \$7.00 each = \$ _____ ②

Total amount ① + ② = \$ _____ ③

Make check payable to – **ALA-PPP**
and mail to ALA-Wisconsin,
PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901-0140.

Department will implement a \$25.00 administrative fee
for checks returned by the bank.
Checks cannot be accepted 90 days
beyond date of check.

Send PPP Membership cards to:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

PPP cards are sent out by the Chairman, Diane Weggen.
Any questions, please contact her at 715-644-2668.



Standing Rules

Maggie Geiger, Department Chair

maggie4ala@gmail.com

Unique to each unit, Standing Rules delves into the details of your unit, such as when your unit meets, how many meetings a year, how much are dues, do you help your post with expenses, it is up to each individual unit how explicit or simple their Standing Rules are written.

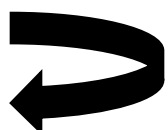
Reviewing your unit's Standing Rules every year helps make sure that any changes are reflected in your governing documents, example "Unit will pay for unit presidents heating bill for the month of January", perhaps that was true last year, but the unit would rather give a \$25.00 gift card at the end of the presidents' term!

As your unit grows and changes so will some of the events. Possibly your unit adds new scholarships, or the number of Badger Girls State delegates you send. To adopt changes to your Standing Rules it takes a 2/3 vote.

Units have asked what type of items should be put into their Standing Rules, the answer is, what works best for your unit. If your unit does 80 events or 1 event a year, you might want to list what the procedure is for donations, such as if the units hold back some of the proceeds to cover costs, it helps members understand how your unit operates.

In the word search is a list of words to find; these words represent items units have listed in their Standing Rules, remember do what works best for your unit.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions. Enjoy the word search puzzle.



-Over-

Standing Rules Word Search

B R R E G I S T R A T I O N Y K W A C O R D S W B F J H L I
 C Q N I R E K M B G E T I Q K O E R C W W C C A A Q E O F C
 G J F T O J S I Q O O B F G A A I L Y I M U H J D W E Z L H
 I T V Z A T I J O V W Z E I Z Q J M E O P O O M G C H W A N
 W Z D O M L J S U E P Z W F Y I J P L N C G L V E Q O M G B
 D O N A T I O N S R S R U T J T T Y A M F J A W R V K E S I
 T G I H Y D I Y P N E B V S X X Z X A L F V R D G O W E F R
 S X E Y V T W I M I N O F F I C E R P I N S S J I B X T W T
 D K B S F X R C N N Q O G O B V A Q N A A C H W R K N I A H
 T F P P V B X M Q G N W W U I E T Z A L P I I G L V R N U D
 H W F O O T M E N D I Z B G I F N R V S T K P E S Q K G Y A
 N H A P T E S M H O N G C F M D D E A T W M S K S A S O Z Y
 Q F L P I R Q B O C C Q U O L E E A V V I U S R T T M A Q C
 G U A Y N M P E S U L J U T R A D L Y O E J T N A T R P A E
 C N I P G K H R P M G I N T K S V A I F L L D A T O Q Y J L
 B D N R P E K P I E O E I C X X A P L N L E R M E J R M K E
 U R T I A C Y E T N F W T W M T B G P S E W N E M G E X M B
 P A H N S I U R A T F E P C Z J T V E I O S J T J G W O H R
 Z I E C J U B K L S I J I O D K Q I O M G G G A F F N Z U A
 G S K E F Y H S I J C B N N J R S C S P P O Q Q G O U H R N T
 C E N S E T P Y Z F E A S F R V V U Q N X L D S D G N U G I
 V R O S P Q R Z A Z R D K E B M E M O R I A L G I F T D R O
 H S W H F X O X T A S Q C R D B Z B Z O A P Y F W S M Z S N
 A U N S Z W C J I O Z V Y E B L T Q O G X F Z W G F P Q K S
 Y T F R V R E H O A W G P N K D H K P C A B Q S W C I F K M
 Y Y J H O D E E N Z H N B C M P J D G J H H T J Q F Q Q O D
 Z X M X Z E D G O K L H U E J L X A J U N I O R M E M B E R
 G J H F X L S H T U R T A N J B G T I C I U A I B T R W V Z
 T H I N S T A L L A T I O N A Q U O R U M K M O H H R N E H
 T N F U N C T I O N S D E R C O R T W O T H I R D S N I I G

ALA in the Know
 Badger Girls State
 Benevolent Funds
 Birthday Celebrations
 Conference
 Cords
 Corsage
 Donations
 Functions
 Fundraisers
 Flags

Gifts
 Governing Documents
 Guidelines
 Hospitalization
 Installation
 Junior Member
 Medals
 Meeting
 Member Perks
 Memorial Gift
 Officers

Officer Pins
 Poppy Princess
 Proceeds
 Name Tags
 Quorum
 Registration
 Scholarships
 Term
 Two Thirds
 Unit Pins
 Voting



Christmas Gift Shop 2025
All Wrapped Up!
Diana Sirovina, Chairman
dsirovina@icloud.com



As the beautiful Irving Berlin song says, "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas." Such a beautiful, memorable song, my all-time favorite! A white Christmas is something many people actually enjoy. Unfortunately, it is not something we look forward to for Christmas Gift Shop wrapping day!

Wrapping day brings together a group of very dedicated members to take on the task of wrapping the numerous gifts our veterans in long-term care facilities selected for their loved ones. This years wrapping day had its fair share of interesting things happening. First, there was the date change from Sunday to Monday, due to scheduling conflicts. Next, there was the snow! That beautiful, idyllic, fluffy gift from Mother Nature proved to create a challenge for those talented who drove many miles to participate.

As is typical of our dedicated members, twelve inches of snow did not deter them from creating another memorable wrapping day! We were privileged to host a special guest this year. Our National President Pam Ray managed to navigate her way from Illinois, with her husband, SAL Past National Vice Commander, Harl Ray. Pam helped us wrap the nearly 600 gifts and had a great time doing it.

Although the end of the program this year didn't necessarily go according to plan, our Christmas Gift Shop program, once again, was very successful. 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.

Each year we receive letters and notes from family members expressing their thanks not only for the gifts they receive but to our organization for making this program available to their veteran in the care facility. Many tell us the gifts were very unexpected, others say receiving the gifts bring back wonderful memories of times when their families were all together for the Holidays.

As we conclude the Christmas Gift Shop program for the year, it is important that we acknowledge the tremendous financial support the program receives from our members. Without that generosity, the program and its' impact would not be possible. Thank you for your continuing support of this great program!



President Sue Hembrook,
National President Pam Ray &
CGS Chair Diana Sirovina



National President
Pam Ray



SAL PDC Bob Sirovina, SAL
PNVC Harl Ray, TAL 4th
District VC Gene Hembrook

Red Book Corrections

- Pg. 5 Change Kay Grosskopf's Unit number from 10 to 391
- *Pg. 8 Replace Michelle Adams with Pamela (PJ) Stephens as VA&R Chairman:
847-708-4533 / pj_deptauxwi@yahoo.com
- Pg. 8 Add Diane Weggen as PPP Chairman
- Pg. 9 Add Jacqueline Rowley as Clark County President: 405 E Elm Drive, Loyal WI 54446
715-937-4029 / poppejackie@gmail.com
- Pg. 9 Add Kathleen Brunkow as Eau Claire County President: 4526 Woodford Ct #3, Eau Claire WI 54703.
715-271-0714 / kathybrunkow119@gmail.com
- Pg. 9 Add Julie Brunette as the new Oconto County President: 2688 Trophy Ct., Abrams WI 54101.
920-373-3653 / jbrunette131@gmail.com
- *Pg. 10 Replace Sue Middlestead with Deb Porter as the Zablocki Deputy
- Pg. 14 Replace Jim Johnson as Alt Necman with Karl Stuvengen / 608-295-5959 / orfywi@gmail.com
- Pg. 19 Update Tricia Rose's email to triciarose906@gmail.com
- Pg. 20 Add Lori Szczublewski's ph # 920-622-4683
- Pg. 20 Update Delores Woolf's email to deloreswoolf@gmail.com
- Pg. 77 Update January 2026 Midwinter dates to Jan. 15–18 at Oneida Hotel, Green Bay
- Pg. 77 Update January 2027 Midwinter dates to Jan. 21-24 at Madison Marriott West, Madison

*updated 2/3/2025

DATES & DEADLINES

Last updated 2/2/2026

(subject to change)

2026		
Mar 1, 2026	Department Committee Application Deadline	See 2026–2027 Dept Program Interest Form
Mar 28, 2026	8 th District Spring Conference	American Legion Post 391, Fremont, WI
Apr 11, 2026	9 th District Spring Conference	Woods Golf Course, Green Bay, WI
Apr 11, 2026	Legion Family Testimonial	Strawberry Creek Club, Kenosha, WI
Apr 11–12, 2026	WALASBA 9–Pin Tap Bowling Tournament	Dale's Weston Lanes, hosted by Wausau Unit 10
Apr 15, 2026	Unit Year–End Annual Reports Due	See Annual Reports on Dept Website
Apr 18, 2026	1 st District Spring Conference	American Legion Post 294, Hartland, WI
Apr 18, 2026	6 th District Spring Conference	American Legion Post 351, Montello, WI
Apr 18, 2026	7 th District Spring Conference	American Legion Post 100, Sparta, WI
Apr 25, 2026	American Legion Family Day	Legion Family Events–Department wide
Apr 25, 2026	2 nd District Spring Conference	Fort Atkinson, WI
Apr 25, 2026	10 th District Spring Conference	Bloomer, WI
Apr 25, 2026	11 th District Spring Conference	Three Lakes, WI
Apr 25, 2026	3 rd District Spring Conference	Dodgeville High School, Dodgeville, WI
May 15–17, 2026	Junior Activities Spring Conference	Camp American Legion, Lake Tomahawk, WI
June 21–26, 2026	ALA Badger Girls State	UW–Oshkosh
July 16–19, 2026	Legion Family Department Convention	Hilton Paper Valley, Appleton
July 19, 2026	2026–2027 District Presidents Orientation	Hilton Paper Valley, Appleton (after DEC Mtg)
Aug 28–Sep 3, 2026	Legion Family National Convention	Louisville, KY