



WISCONSIN



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

www.amlegionauxwi.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Joyce E. Endres
Department President

Reap the awards of sharing. Find something positive you can do! Positive actions are summarized in "2012-2013 Wisconsin Statistics" gathered from your unit reports. Pass on these "Talking Points" to prospective members, community leaders and local media to help them understand the impact the American Legion Auxiliary has serving America. Go to the home page of the department website to find these statistics.

October is Education Month. Sue Hembrook, Department Education Chairman, developed the Education Plan of Action (POA) as a guide for units. The Education and other program POAs are found on the Department website (under Programs) and outline the purpose, goals, awards and How To's to help you put ALA programs into action.

Fall Informational Forum (FIF) and District Conferences provide Education, Networking and Fun. Attendees and presenters share their knowledge and network to learn from each other. Ninth District held a 'Program Skit' that had us laughing as we learned. At FIF, District Presidents donated gem colored baskets and Chaplain Char Kiesling donated a model church her Dad had made to entice attendees to participate in the fundraiser. Sandra Hinkle and Nancy Helms encouraged donations and filled gem covered bags with tickets. Over \$1,500 was raised to support the Presi-

dent's Special Project and the Homeless Women Veterans Grant Fund. Your generosity is boundless.

Live your dreams, not your doubts! It's OK to be fabulous and flawed! Reporting illustrates some GEMS (units/members) shine brightly. Other GEMS need some polishing to shine. One business analyst "shining" technique is to look for the 'root cause of a problem.' Strong and troubled units can benefit from this exercise! Set aside a Unit meeting to conduct a planning, problem solving, or solutions session. Ask "who, what, where, how, when, and why" questions for members to answer.

Use your "Civility Tool Kit": Let all members speak; don't interrupt; listen (actively); respect others; practice kindness, generosity, and gratitude; nurture your social relationships; be present/pay attention; use teachable moments; give good ideas a chance; keep your cool (count to 10); say thank you and mean it; promote decency and think positively.

Positive thinking takes you places! Fresh starts can start anytime. One positive action can start a chain reaction of positive outcomes. When we add fun to our meetings, we enjoy and participate more. As Ward Cleaver on "Leave it to Beaver" said, "You're never too old to do goofy stuff."

Ladies, go out to buy District GEM colored sunglasses because Wisconsin is polishing their GEMS to help the ALA shine brighter than ever before. Stress less. Smile more.

Joyce Endres
Department President

MEMBERSHIP

Laura Calteux
Department Membership Chairman

Share Your Life, Share Your Legacy, Pass it On!

The American Legion Auxiliary gives us many opportunities to increase our knowledge about our programs. We just had our Fall Informational Forum where members had the opportunity to learn about our programs from the chairmen themselves. Then there are the Leadership Conferences that are being scheduled throughout the state. Going to the National website (www.ALAforVeterans.org) will get you plenty of information about our organization and programs. These are awesome opportunities to learn about the Auxiliary and its programs. The information that you get from all of these learning opportunities gives you the knowledge to promote our great organization and recruit new members.

President Joyce has a goal for this year, that all of our members memorize the mission statement for the American Legion Auxiliary. Our mission statement tells everyone who we are, what we do and why we are the greatest women's patriotic service organization in the world. Through our programs we advocate for veterans (our VA&R program), educate our citizens (all of our programs), mentor youth (our Junior program), and promote patriotism (our Americanism program), good citizenship (ALA Badger Girls

State), peace and security (our National Security program). This is all that you need to know to recruit new members.

Now that you have the knowledge to promote the Auxiliary, you need to get out into the community. Promoting your fundraisers, brat fries, spaghetti dinners, etc. is very important in recruiting new members and promoting our mission. Always have Legion Family information available during your community programs and fundraisers. National President Nancy Brown-Park has suggested holding a Walk, Run and Roll event for our veterans as a way to share our message with the community and recruit new members. Asking other service organizations to be involved with Auxiliary projects will raise community awareness of our programs and mission.

Once we have those new members, we need to let all of our members know how important they and their contributions are to our veterans. Assign a mentor to your new members so they have a contact for any questions they may have. Find out how your members want to be involved, be open to new and different ideas. Always be an example of Service Not Self.

YOUR TEAM:
Laura Calteux, Chairman
Berne Baer, UD & R
Ruth Mengsol, UD & R
Morgan Johnsen, Junior Member

Happy Veterans Day!

The American Legion Auxiliary Headquarters staff thanks all of our veterans, active duty military, and their families for their service and sacrifice.

Thank You Cabela's for Supporting Veterans!

Cabela's Distribution Center in Prairie du Chien recently donated 579 women's Gore-Tex jackets to the American Legion Auxiliary to support veterans, military personnel and families in need. Karen Johnson, President of Gays Mills Unit 308 and an employee at the distribution center, worked with Kurt Kravchuk, Cabela's Director of Distribution, and fellow Cabela representatives

Van Schwab, Dave Kiley, Justin Grinnell, and Cory Daniels to make this donation possible.

Pictured, left to right, are Justin Grinnell, Karen Johnson, Department President Joyce Endres, Department Secretary Bonnie Dorniak and Cory Daniels.

Thank you Cabela's for your generosity!



SHARE YOUR LIFE

SHARE YOUR LEGACY

2013-2014 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

OCTOBER 2013

DISTRICT 2	DISTRICT 3	DISTRICT 12	DISTRICT 1	DISTRICT 9	DISTRICT 8	DISTRICT 4	DISTRICT 7	DISTRICT 6	DISTRICT 10	DISTRICT 11	DISTRICT 5
49.10%	48.21%	46.88%	42.68%	40.37%	39.03%	40.53%	38.81%	37.65%	35.50%	31.84%	26.98%

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Char Kiesling
 Department Chaplain
 Music Chairman
 Ph: (920) 725-0121
 Email: charbabyrn@yahoo.com

October brings to mind...colorful leaves, mild temperatures during the day but chilly evenings, frost on the pumpkins, gazing at that big harvest moon, and of course, the children are excited for Halloween and planning their costumes for trick-or-treat. Then there is raking leaves, football, and attending fall festivals honoring the Lord's bounty. We all enjoy these final and precious autumn days and we start to prepare for what lies ahead. Living in Wisconsin, we all know what that is! We also need to prepare when serving our organization and serving those whose needs are greatest, our deserving Veterans, our active military and their families. Our ability and freedom to share our harvests with those we serve is only through our GREAT and GENEROUS LORD. We pray that He continues to bless our American Legion Family and those we serve. Remind us that when we help a person in need, we are also serving you.

PRAYER

Lord God, teach me to love others as you have loved me. Help me be more patient and alert to the needs of others, and always ready to serve them with the gifts you have given me.

Amen

MUSIC

"COME, YOU THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME"

Come, you thankful people come;
 Raise the song of harvest-home.
 All is safely gathered in, 'ere the winter storms begin.
 God our maker shall provide for our wants to be supplied.
 Come to God's own temple come;
 Raise the song of harvest-home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;
 Wheat and weeds together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.
 First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.
 Lord of harvest grant that we, wholesome grain and pure may be.

Even so, Lord, quickly come, and shall take his harvest-home;
 Gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
 There, forever purified, in your garner to abide.
 Come with all your angels, come;
 Raise the glorious harvest-home.



GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Bonnie Dorniak
 Executive Secretary/Treasurer
 Ph: (608) 745-0124
 Email: deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org

The 2014 American Legion Auxiliary membership year is off to a strong start! Wisconsin is progressing towards national's objective to achieve 55% of our membership goal by Veterans Day. What a great way to honor the special veterans in our lives – and ALL veterans – by renewing our membership in the world's largest women's patriotic organization.

Gallagher Benefit Services offers all Auxiliary members: dental, vision and hearing aid discount plans; prescription pharmacy savings; insurance (life, long-term care, critical illness, medicare supplement, home and auto); estate planning information; financial services such as retirement, tax and college savings plans; and financial products. For more information, visit www.ALAforVeterans.org (Resources > Member Benefits) or call 855-461-6500 to speak to an advisor.

Abenity, Inc. offers member discounts on: technology (computers, televisions, cell phones and cell phone plans); national at-

tractions such as Disneyland, Disneyworld, Six Flags, Legoland, Sea World; movie tickets; restaurant coupons and much more. To find out what savings are available locally, go to ALA.MemberDiscounts.co to register and enter the code "ALADiscounts".

Besides the personal benefits that are available, a woman's membership supports and honors the sacrifice of those who serve – veterans, military, and their families. And there is strength in numbers! The ALA provides a report to Congress every year detailing the work of its members and units throughout the country. When Congress sees that Auxiliary members – potentially 800,000 women voters – support veterans issues, they need to consider their actions and represent their constituents. Renew your membership with the ALA now and let your voice be heard!

Did you know that anyone who recruits one new senior or two new junior Auxiliary members is eligible to receive one Department Award Pin and one National Award Button? Entry forms can be obtained from the department website or by contacting Andrea Stoltz at headquarters. Additionally, individuals who recruit 10 or more new members are

eligible to enter the national contest for cash awards! Recruiters of 25 or more new senior members will receive a special gift from the national president. Units that retain or renew 100% of their 2013 membership by December 31, 2013 will be eligible for a \$100 cash drawing. So everyone is encouraged to renew their membership as soon as possible and units are reminded to forward their dues to department for processing in a timely manner. Please do not hold onto membership dues! If you have any questions, please contact department headquarters.

As I complete my third year with the Auxiliary, I decided it was time to clean out some of the old office files to make room for new ones. I came across the following excerpt from a membership "pet peeves" article written almost 40 years ago (yes, it was time to clean out the files!). I hope you enjoy it as much as I did: "For heavens sake do not list deceased members and send dues in for them. One Unit listed a deceased member on their 1976 remittance blank whose name appeared in the 1974 Memorial Book. Let them rest in peace – they probably have done their share."

CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM

Mary Petrie
 Department C&Y Chairman
 Ph: (920) 261-8161
 Email: mmrtpetrie@charter.net

With President Joyce's encouragement, the Mission of the American Legion Auxiliary has been popping up all over...

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 our youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

What a powerful impact in only two sentences! Mentoring our youth certainly fits the Children & Youth purpose...To protect, care for and support children and youth, particularly those of veterans' families and military families.

Fall Forum's C&Y Workshop provided information on other organizations work-

ing to meet the needs of our children and possible partnerships with them – Children's Miracle Network, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Operation: Military Kids, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), Camp Hometown Heroes, and the Child Welfare Foundation. Members became acquainted with Josh, G.I. Josh, and Klinger. These three soft, cuddly stuffed animals, based on a real life dog and horse, each has his own story to tell and would be a great addition to a Unit-sponsored Story Hour at your Post, the public library, or a grade school.

The American Legion comic books (anti-bullying, Veterans, Our Country's Flag, Pledge of Allegiance, Light of Liberty, and World Geography) and school items offer inexpensive and fun ways to learn. These can be ordered from the American Legion Flag & Emblem Catalog (www.Emblem.Legion.org). Check out the Legion's website (www.legion.org) for free brochures pertaining to the wellbeing of our children:

ALA KIDS - Kids in Danger of Depression & Suicide, Gateway Drugs, Suicide Warning Signs, Halloween Safety, Missing Children, and Child Safety. When distributing these items, include your Unit's contact information.

The Auxiliary website (www.amlegionauxwi.org) includes the websites of the organizations listed above and overflows with information and fun ways to teach, learn, or refresh the C&Y program with a Word Search and Gems of Wisdom origami.

Watch for special promotions! Through 12/31/13, Brawny Paper Towels (www.brawnytowels.com) is donating \$1, up to \$350,000, to the Wounded Warrior Project for every individual who "likes" the Brawny Facebook Page or shares a 'Thank You' on its Wall of Thanks. The Kohl's Cares program donates 100% to kids' health and education initiatives nationwide from sales of inexpensive items.

As Gems of Service, you are Sharing Your Lives. Now let your stories, excitement, and dedication shine bright!

POPPY PROGRAM

Kitty Larkin
 Department Poppy Chairman
 Ph: (262) 649-3399
 Email: kittysltr@wi.rr.com

The Poppy Program gives us the opportunity to provide monetary support to our veterans and their families as well as active military, as we distribute poppies and spread the word about the American Legion Auxiliary and all we do for our veterans, active military and their families. The inclusion of active military is due to an amendment to the Poppy Program as set forth by The American Legion at the National level and accepted by the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary Department Executive Board to be in full force and effect for the Department of Wisconsin.

Many questions have surfaced concerning the Poppy Program due to problems that have arisen in other parts of the country. Wisconsin's Poppy program through the Zablocki Poppy Shop has been very

successful and you are encouraged to continue purchasing the poppies made by the veterans so we don't negatively impact our veteran poppy makers who rely on the rehabilitation program for financial, emotional and social support.

As always, we encourage units to distribute poppies in May. But, distributing poppies all year long will keep our veterans and their needs in the forefront of everyone's minds and increase donations. Working together as a Legion Family will take your Poppy Program to new heights. So get those Legionnaires, Juniors and SAL together for some fun. The Poppy Princess and Poppy poster contests are continuing with information available on the Department website. Each individual wanting to become the Poppy Princess will need to complete a scrapbook which should be started as they begin doing the activities. Please note that the entry date for the Poppy Poster judging in the Depart-

ment Plan of Action has been changed to May 1, 2014 due to a change in Regional and National deadlines.

Let's make the Poppy Usage contest huge this year! Be creative in how you use poppies – the more creative, the better. Display your creations at your meeting sites and request a \$1.00 donation for the chance to vote on your favorite entries, thereby raising funds for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. This can then be carried forward at the District level. The Unit or District that raises the most money for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival will be recognized at the Department Convention. The Departments in each division that raise the most will be recognized in National communications. So let's get Wisconsin in the news.

"Be Gems of Service - Share your Life" by making the public aware of how the Poppy Program meets the needs of our veterans and active military personnel.



**CALENDAR
FUNDRAISER WINNERS
SEPTEMBER 2013**



1	25.00	43760	Betty Sadowska	Marshfield
2	500.00	21673	Robert Salchert	St Cloud
3	15.00	01630	David Schlies	Wausaukee
4	15.00	25841	Bernice Tinstman	Oshkosh
5	15.00	14346	Karen Cates	Silver Lake
6	15.00	13386	Luella Hodgson	Mazomanie
7	15.00	11132	Alvina Phillips	DeForest
8	25.00	27459	Fern Aleckson	Taylor
9	15.00	26160	Audrey Kellner	Delafield
10	15.00	01514	Richard Scollon	Madison
11	15.00	38819	Mavis Luber	Loyal
12	15.00	01787	Eric Thornburgh	Twin Lakes
13	15.00	43297	Barbara Grosskopf	West Salem
14	15.00	24095	Paula Dietsche	Chippewa Falls
15	25.00	40273	Lucille Pospishl	Mondovi
16	15.00	13862	Otto Schild	Monroe
17	15.00	10173	Shirley Lewis	New Glarus
18	15.00	26468	Amy Gollwitzer	Grafton
19	15.00	24292	Judith Severson	Menomonie
20	15.00	01764	Ivan Elm	Mayville
21	15.00	15480	Mae Wilkes	Watertown
22	25.00	49848	Janet Mullard	Wallace MI
23	15.00	33773	Deborah Schaeuble	Wrightstown
24	15.00	42902	Scott Ploof	Little Falls MN
25	15.00	04355	Mary Montag	Fairwater
26	15.00	30500	Nancy Busse	Cecil
27	15.00	19243	Beatrice Dietrich	Kiel
28	15.00	27930	Mary Koontz	Eau Claire
29	25.00	43242	Ellen Pederson	Westby
30	15.00	01798	Jennifer Cox	Plymouth NH

American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State – Thank You!



The following is an excerpt of a speech given by Jessica Kreuser, a delegate to the 2013 ALA Badger Girls State Session, to her sponsoring ALA Unit 448 in Milwaukee. Lisa Phillips, the Unit's ALABGS Chairman, said Jessica's speech "made one of our WW2 vets cry."

I would like to start off by saying thank you for allowing me to be a part of Badger Girls State and for allowing me to join you here to share my wonderful experience. I would first like to tell you a little bit about myself. My name is Jessica Kreuser and I am a senior at Wisconsin Lutheran High School... I take pride in being very involved at my school, but until Badger Girls State, I did not know how to be involved in my government. Honestly, I was not all too sure how government even worked. Badger Girls State helped me learn more about myself and my country, while meeting some of the most inspiring people along the way.

...Many things happened in just one week. The first thing that I remember is the fact that I was very nervous when I first arrived. I had very little knowledge about government and a very large amount of knowledge about how easily I can make a fool of myself. But upon arrival, my feelings of nervousness vanished. Everyone was easy to talk to and the staff at BGS was very good at walking me through all of the meetings and protocols. Within the first few days, I had built up enough confidence to run for Alderman of the city of Spruce. Winning the campaign gave me an incredible boost of self confidence that encouraged me to become even more ambitious. I was also then selected to be a county committee leader for the county of Wilder. These accomplishments, along with many other things I did at BGS, forced me outside of my comfort zone. I

learned that taking a risk can be daunting, but it can also lead to great reward.

The second thing I remember most about BGS is the great lasting friendships that developed over the course of one week... Everyone that I met was different, and yet, equally inspiring. Each girl was extremely motivated and passionate. Some of the best times were when we were sitting at lunch and discussing our beliefs and values with one another... Hearing other people's side of things has helped me to be a more understanding and knowledgeable person about current issues and about how to defend my views and beliefs.

The final and greatest thing I took away from BGS is a greater love and respect for my country and for those who serve it. One day, we had the privilege of observing a flag [disposal] ceremony. The respect and dignity with which the flag was treated reminded me of how blessed I am to live in a country where I can be whatever I desire and worship my Lord without fear. I gained an appreciation for all who serve our country, especially for those, and the families of those, who have risked their lives to protect and defend the country we call home. I will always remember my week at Badger Girls State, for it has shaped and continues to shape my life. Again, thank you so much for allowing me to partake in this once in a lifetime experience.

If not cashed within 90 days, the check will be voided without any notification sent to you. If it's after 90 days call our office. We are open Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm. Phone: 608-745-0124.

Veterans Stand Down

A Veterans Stand Down hosted by the Tomah VA was held at Post 52 in La Crosse with 267 veterans in attendance. It provided an opportunity for veterans to come and learn about the dif-

ferent resources the VA and other community providers have to offer. The Stand Down focused on eliminating homelessness but also provided veterans with flu shots and some much needed clothing

for the cold winter months ahead. Pictured (left to right) are Kelli Mades, Andrea Page, Pat Smith and Virginia Kodl who sponsored the American Legion Auxiliary information table.



2014 CALENDAR FUNDRAISER

Entry forms for the 2014 ALA Calendar Fundraiser have been mailed out! Return your entry forms by 12/31/13 for a chance to win.

**Over \$12,000 in Cash Prizes!
At least one \$500 winner each month!
- 365 Winners -**



For Additional Entries contact Headquarters at

866-664-3863



Nancy Brown-Park
National President

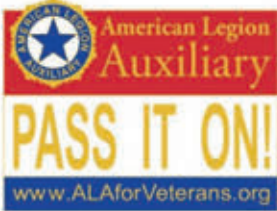
NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S PARADE OF CHECKS

A Parade of Checks will be held on Friday, November 8th at
Mason-Lindsay Post 385
(207 Legion Street in Verona)
during a dinner held in honor of National President Nancy Brown Park

Donations will support Nancy's Special Project, "ALAF Veteran Projects Fund," which offers grants to departments and units to help with the special needs of veterans and their families.

Anyone interested in donating but unable to attend the dinner is asked to mail donations payable to ALA Wisconsin no later than November 6, 2013

Please send check to: ALA-WI, PO Box 140, Portage, WI 53901-0140
(Please write ALAF Veteran Projects Fund in the memo field so your donation is applied correctly.)



CARING FOR AMERICA'S HEROES

Wisconsin Veterans from the Home at King attended a lunch hosted by the Wolf River Auxiliary Unit 391 at the Fremont Legion Hall.

One of the veterans said the German potato salad "tasted just like his mother used to make" and he wanted to hug

the woman who made it. Everything was delicious. Many games of Bingo were played after lunch. Thank you to the Auxiliary Unit members who prepared and served the food and to members of Legion Post 391 who assisted in this annual event.



POPPY ORDERS

Several posts and units have not reported their 2013 poppy profits to department headquarters. These reports must be received before 2014 poppy orders will be processed.

The Poppy Shop is processing orders for 2014 so send your orders in at your earliest convenience.



CORRECTION: 2013 NATIONAL AWARDS

Community Service: The Senior Volunteer of the Year in Central Division should have been listed as Judy Ruppel of Warren Kane Unit 410, Fredonia, District 2. Congratulations Judy on this accomplishment and thank you for all your hard work!

We apologize for the incorrect information listed in last month's issue.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN MIDWINTER LUNCHEON

Saturday, January 14, 2014 • 12:00 Noon – 2:00 pm (Doors Open at 11:45 am)
Ho-Chunk Hotel & Convention Center (Room: Upper Dells B)
S3214 Highway 12, Baraboo WI 53913

Luncheon includes coffee, milk, soda or iced tea and choice of one entree:

- **Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad:** Romaine lettuce, sliced chicken breast, freshly-grated parmesan cheese, sliced tomatoes and garlic croutons in a classic Caesar dressing. Served with bread stick and cracker basket.
- **Smoked Turkey Wrap:** Large tortilla filled with shaved turkey, bacon, sliced tomato, cheddar cheese, shredded lettuce, bistro sauce and pasta salad.

Please note: If you plan to attend any of The American Legion Midwinter Conference meetings or training sessions, please register with the Legion (\$20.00 before 1/6/2014). Hotel room reservations must be made through The American Legion Headquarters, P.O. Box 388, Portage, WI 53901. Registration and housing forms are available on The American Legion website (www.wilegion.org) or at Legion Headquarters, 608-745-1090.

Name (print neatly)	Unit #	Dist #	Grilled Chicken Cesar Salad or Smoked Turkey Wrap

If more space is needed please attach sheet with additional information

LUNCHEON TICKET - \$15.00 EACH (DEADLINE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2013)

Number Attending Luncheon _____ @ \$15.00 each = \$_____ enclosed

Checks payable to: ALA-WI. Mail to: ALA-WI, P.O. Box 140, Portage, WI 53901-0140.

No refunds will be will be issued after 12/31/2013.