



Department of Wisconsin
American Legion Auxiliary
8th District Newsletter
August 2025



Greeting from your new District 8 President, Kay Grosskopf. A little bit about myself. I have been a member of the Auxiliary since 2008. I belong to unit 391 Fremont. I am eligible to join through the service of my husband, Keith, Marine Corps Vietnam veteran and my father Paul Becker (dec), Army Air Corps, WWII, Search and Rescue (sled dogs). I have served as unit vice president for 3 years, president for 4 years and treasurer the past 5 years. I also held Department Chair positions for Community Service and Poppy. I look forward to working with all the members of the district, meeting you at spring and fall conferences and visiting as many units as possible.

We will introduce our officers in the coming issues. We want you to feel comfortable talking to any of us.

Department Convention is behind us. Congratulations to our new Department Officers!

Sue Hembrook – President
Amy Luft – Senior Vice President
Christina Petranovich – 1st Vice President
Betty Stone – 2nd Vice President
Christine Johnsen – Historian
Sandy Mack – Chaplain
NEC – Maggie Geiger

Sue Hembrook is from Milwaukee Unit 537 and was installed as our Department President. Her theme is **“Honor Our Country, Support Our Veterans.”** Her special project this year will be Camp American Legion. Her pin is pictured above and I will have them for sale when you see me, \$2.00 ea.

The district has a new email. This email will carry over from president to president. It is
ALAWIDist8@gmail.com

Help Wanted!

There are a number of district positions that need to be filled. I will list the members that have filled some of the positions in the next newsletter. At this time, we need someone to step up for Public Relations, Legislative, Juniors, VA&R, Children & Youth, and Poppy. Americanism and Community Service have been filled. I have asked unit presidents to provide 1-2 names from each unit for these positions. These are not labor intensive positions. You will be a liaison for Department to the District. You can look up the program on the Department website, <https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/programs> for a little background. When contacted, please consider serving in one of these positions.

Tentative Date and location for Fall Conference:

District Email
ALAWIDist8@gmail.com
Unit Officers:
Kay Grosskopf, President,
715-881-1843
Fran Bender, 1st VP/Membership
csmrb@charter.net
Chris Mertes, 2nd VP
Ruth Henkelman, Chaplain
rrrhenk35@gmail.com
Amanda Szalewski Secretary
badger_girl2005@live.com
Lorrie Barber, Treasurer
Lorrie.barber@gmail.com
Diane Kranig, Parliamentarian
DianeQltr@hotmail.com
Denise Belongia, Historian
dbbelongia56@gmail.com

Membership

Congratulations to Mosinee, Rosholt, Plover, Tigerton, Wild Rose and Vesper for accomplishing 100% or more. Keep up the good work. Remember, membership is everyone's job – not just the membership chair. Think of your everyday conversations with people you know. Advertise some the activities you do and how we support veterans and military. You may find out they are eligible. Invite them. Have your 30 second commercial ready.

ALA PAST PRESIDENTS' PARLEY (PPP)

Have you served as a President at any level: unit, county, district, or department? If so, you are eligible to join the Past Presidents' Parley! Membership in the PPP is \$7.00 annually and this funds THREE SCHOLARSHIPS each year in the nursing and health career fields. Past Presidents at all levels are also encouraged to help develop and mentor new leaders. Questions? Need more info? Contact PPP Chair

Diane Weggen at dsweggen@gmail.com

Public Relations Zoom Chats

These monthly chats are for the entire Legion Family. Discussion center around internal and external public relations. The chats are from 6:30 – 8:00. You don't have to commit to the entire 90 minutes, you can drop in and out as time permits. Most sessions are close to an hour. The dates are the last Wednesday of the month in September, October, January, February and April. Watch for emails from department for login information. If you don't receive it, contact Department. I highly recommend these chats as a way to receive and share ideas on how to promote the American Legion Family.

What's Up?

This is where you can list upcoming events for your unit, post, squadron or Riders. Send your upcoming events to ALALWIDist8@gmail.com by the third week of the month and it will be in the monthly newsletter.