



Department of Wisconsin
Ninth District
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Serving our Veterans, Military and Each Other from the Depths of our Hearts
President Becky Mueller

9th District Spring Meeting

We had our 9th District Spring meeting on Saturday May 3rd at the Colonial House in Freedom. We ended up with 2 speakers. Amy Luft, Department 1st Vice resident gave her presentation on "Honor Flight Magic". I don't think there was a dry eye in the place when she was done. We had the Veterans 1st Village on our donation list and Gail Nor, one of the founders of the program had stopped to give us some pamphlets. She graciously spent some time with us explaining how they got started and what they would do for the veterans. If anyone would like information for their unit, please let me know. We had a nice lunch and then the Units gave their reports. It is very impressive to hear all the good things our units are going.

May is Poppy Month

May is indeed Poppy Month. Although the Auxiliary has designated May 23rd as Poppy Day, I am sure that you have activities going on all month. Add onto that Memorial Day and May will probably be your busiest month of the year. I am asking that you take pictures and send them to me for our Picture Board for Department convention. It would be really great for every unit to have a picture on the board.

Guess what? We have a new Facebook Page

With the passing of Ann Lotter last year, we lost our access to the District Facebook page. Ashley Drzewieski, our Public Relations Chairperson has put together a new page for us. You can find it at "WI American Legion Auxiliary-9th District". If you have a problem finding it, call me up and I will help. I really do like to hear from our members. Facebook is a way to share the activities and to advertise your coming activities. Ashley and I are asking that you send your pictures and adds to us so that the whole of 9th will know what is going on in the district. I am also asking that you send them to me so that I can start a calendar of events for the newsletter.

Reporting

I was blown away at the numbers from the impact reports. With only 20 of our 35 units reporting, we distributed 13277 poppies and had \$24,510.94 to support the veterans who make the poppies and to donate to veteran related charities. We drove 51924 miles to complete our mission of service not self. We had 28603.5 hours and donated \$70,355.46 in value to our communities. According to department each hour we report is valued at \$35.00. That means that the value of our service hours is \$1,001,122.50. This information is all reported to Congress. I had a Legionnaire ask me why we report? What good does it do? 1st, we are chartered by Congress. They determine that we are a viable organization from the reports we send to them. 2nd, every time a bill or program for veterans come before the legislature, they have to think of the number of Legion family members that support the veterans in their effort to get the benefits they deserve.

Membership

And then there is membership. As of April 30th, we have 6 units and 1 county that are at 100% of goal, 10 that are over 90% and another 9 units over 85%. Keep working on retaining and gaining members. Washington Island Unit 402 has won this year's special incentive for being over 100% of goal. Their prize will be a 2-night stay in the hotel and 2 free registrations. Please come to convention in Green Bay and support them as they get their certificate.



Calendar

I am going to try to do a District Calendars again. As you as setting up your special events for the summer, please let me know so that I can put them in the calendar. Brat Fries, Golf Outings, any reason your unit has to get together, please let me know. Not only will you be on the calendar, I just might show up.

May 23 – National Poppy Day

June 14th – Flag Day Parade in Appleton

June 14th – 100 Year Celebration Camp American Legion

June 14th – ALABGS Begins in Oshkosh

June 25 through June 26 – Outagamie County Fair – Visit Auxiliary Food Booth

July 4th – Independence Day

July 17 through July 20 – Department of Wisconsin Convention, Green Bay

August 22 through August 28 – Auxiliary National Convention, Tampa Bay, FL

September 13th, 9 District Executive Meeting, Seymour Museum, Seymour

October 11th – 9th District Spring Meeting, Kewaunee, WI

This looks like a lot, but is only scratches the surface of what we do, especially in the summer. Hope it all goes well for you and I hope to see you this summer.

Sue

