



DISTRICT 12 NEWSLETTER

Barb McDaniel, 12 District President
skcbemcdan@msn.com 360-551-6059
PO Box 151 Hawthorne, WI 54842-0151

12th District Newsletter

August/September 2026

Hello 12th District Members,

One year has recently ended and a new year is starting. Check your lists of required chores that are time sensitive. If help is needed, give a staff member for suggestions of help.

Congratulations to Amy Luft for being selected as the 2026-2027 New Department President. Amy is from District 2, Grafton Unit 355. The president's theme is "Wings of Honor": Helping Our Heroes Take Flight." President Amy has selected The Honor Flight Program as her special project. Donations can be made by using Poppy Funds earnings. Suggested donations sheet is included in the current mailing or available on the department website: www.amlegionauxwi.org. President Amy would like to get all veterans, especially Viet Nam veterans, on an Honor Flight. You can talk to any veteran you know about signing up for a flight to D.C. to see their monuments. Don't forget to be there to welcome them home.

State Convention:

Department membership dues will be increased by \$6.00 beginning year 2027-2028.

There is a chance a member may win the raffle of a PUFL (Paid Up For Life) membership. Tickets are \$20.00 each and can be used for a junior or senior member. Contact District President, Membership Chair or Blue Team Co-Pilot for tickets.

Membership: Katie Hanks

As the new District Membership Chair, I learned an incredible amount while attending the recent State Convention. The event was truly inspiring. I had always wondered about the history and purpose behind the themed projects displayed at the back of the conference room and gaining that insight was wonderful. Inspired by what I learned, I want to reach out to every unit in our district. I have created a special theme gift for them, including a handmade mini-luggage piece with a notepad and flag pin, a magnet featuring President Amy's logo, an airplane keychain and other surprises. President Barb or I will be personally reaching out to following units who still need

to submit their Unit Officer Form by September 15 (now late). Spooner 012 and Siren 132. President Barb made a visit on August 11 to Grantsburg and September 15 to Hayward 218, (a cell phone and one member at Vet's Ctr to complete an UOF.) We will do all we can to lend a helping hand. These forms are very necessary for Headquarters records and National files.

There will be more information about the neutral gender resolution recently adopted on September 10, 2026. Every unit should locate their Constitution, By-Laws, and Standing Rules for updating.

National Security:

Does your Unit have a member to chair this program? District Presidents have an attractive folder of information available for helping promote knowledge about the National Security Program. Natalia Genovesi King has put together a binder to support our Districts in meeting this year's National Security goals with clarity, consistency, and confidence. Its purpose is straightforward: to make our role easier while strengthening participation, visibility and impact at every level of our organization. There are zoom sessions scheduled for anyone to join. The schedule: October 22, 2026 – 6:30-8:00pm; December 3, 2026, and February 4, 2027. The sign-in information will be published before each session. There is also a National Security contest which all Units can use to honor and remember all POW/MIA Heroes at every meeting and gathering. These presentations can be used in our communities and school presentations. More information will be given at our Fall Conference in Spooner. Visit and join:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/alawinationalsecurity>.

National Convention:

Our District can welcome aboard to our National President: Dr. Coral May Grout from Massachusetts. www.ALAforVeterans.org is the website you can read, learn and meet all our new leaders for year 2026-2027.

Education:

ALA Academy : Webinars and self-paced courses.

ITK: In The Know training sessions, held each year at various locations.

American Legion Collage: Three levels of training, open to all Legion Family members. Wilegion.org/legion-college to check schedule and sign up.

DISTRICT 12 FALL MEETING

Auxiliary will be meeting in the downstairs room at the Spooner Post. Enter the front entrance, angle left and the room is behind the double wooden doors. Parking is in front of the post and above to the back of the building. Remember to RSVP to link on poster for food head count. Have a good day and see you at the conference.

Plan on \$3.00, registration and \$10.00 for lunch. Don't forget to bring an item for the fund-raising raffle.

DISTRICT 12 FALL MEETING

- DATE: Saturday, September 26
- LOCATION: Moe-Miller Post 12 122 Northwestern Drive, Spooner, WI 54801
- TIME: Doors open at 9 AM

If you have questions, please contact Barb McDaniel, 12 District President
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ELIGIBILITY CHANGES



ALA MEMBERSHIP
Eligibility Changes
SAME MISSION. MORE FAMILIES. A STRONGER TOMORROW.

More Families Can Belong!

WHAT'S NEW?
These family relationships are now gender-neutral and may be male or female.

- Grandmother → Grandparent
- Mother → Parent
- Sister → Sibling
- Daughter → Child
- Granddaughter → Grandchild

Adopted relationships are eligible.

WHAT STAYS THE SAME?

- LIVING VETERANS**
The veteran must still be a member of The American Legion.
- DECEASED VETERANS**
The veteran must have served during an applicable War Era and been honorably discharged or died in service.
- FEMALE VETERANS**
May join under their own service without being a member of The American Legion, unless someone is joining under their service (the Living Veteran requirement applies).
- SPOUSES**
Male or female spouses of veterans remain eligible (since 2019).

STILL NOT ELIGIBLE

- Male veterans under their own service.
- Nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.
- Sister or brother-in-laws are not eligible.

TWO DEGREES OF CONSANGUINITY MEANS:
Great-grandparents, great-grandchildren or any further generations are not included. This is per IRS requirement 2019.

APPLICATION VERIFICATION 6/3/26
The American Legion Auxiliary Unit Secretary or other unit officer may verify the eligibility of a potential member and sign the application.

GET THE UPDATED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Visit the ALA Department of Wisconsin website www.amlegionauxwi.org
→ Programs → Membership → New Member: Application

SERVICE ★ ADVOCACY ★ COMMUNITY ★ TOGETHER FOR VETERANS

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:

Section 2. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to:

(1) grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of members of The American Legion; and

(2) grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of all servicemembers who served in either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, and any time after December 7, 1941, who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge;

(3) grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of all servicemembers who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941, who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during either eligibility period and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and

(4) to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

The revisions to the ALA's eligibility mentioned above allow individuals the potential to be members of both the Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. The Legion's national judge advocate has confirmed that this dual membership does not constitute a conflict of interest with The American Legion.

The eligibility changes are effective immediately. Updated membership applications, brochures, and additional membership resources are available at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

Definition: Consanguinity is a relationship between two people who share a common ancestor.

WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS

Osceola Unit 221



Have a good day. See ya'll at Fall Call Conference

Barb McDaniel, President

Katie Hanks, Membership Chair

Pat Beecher, Publisher