

WISCONSIN



OCTOBER 2019

American Legion Auxiliary
P.O. Box 140
Portage, WI 53901
alawi@amlegionauxwi.org
www.amlegionauxwi.org

The official publication of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



JOANIE DICKERSON
Department
President

Celebration time come on! If you attended our Department Convention, you heard those words (and music!) following PDP Joyce Endres's report on the Centennial Strategic plan. For the past five years, teams of ladies from across the state have been working toward achieving the plan's goals. Great progress has been made and work will continue in the coming years. Congratulations to all who worked tirelessly to meet those goals.

But that's not the only reason we are celebrating. November 10th marks the 100th anniversary of our AMAZING organization! How many other completely volunteer service organizations have been going strong for 100 years?

There are very few. Does your unit have plans to mark this milestone? If not, the time to begin planning is NOW!

I've been privileged to attend a couple of joint anniversary celebrations for the American Legion Family and have enjoyed meeting new people and catching up with long-time friends. It has been wonderful to witness the efforts of so many people as they share our story with others in their communities. If you don't have plans for an event, consider working with your Legion post to celebrate our heritage and bring increased awareness of our mission and value to our veterans, military and their families. Take the time to publicize your events! Too often our activities go unnoticed because WE don't share this information outside our own units. Get the word out!

We are vital members of our communities and provide services that are crucial to the continued care and well-being of our nation's heroes. Without us, life would be very different for our veterans. Our donations, small and great, when combined, have a far-reaching impact. Each year, our VA Medical Centers, Veterans Homes, and outreach facilities rely on our donations to provide items and services to improve the quality of life for those they serve. Wish lists are submitted for items not provided through the facilities' budgets. Funds donated by each unit are held at department headquarters to be used for those gifts, which are presented by the Department President on behalf of our more than 20,000 members. That's just one way YOU make a difference in the lives of veterans.

It's time to celebrate your efforts and achievements! I look forward to hearing about your events to celebrate our 100th Anniversary. Take lots of pictures and share them with me and our department historian, Dany Thompson. It isn't every day you turn 100 years

old. This is definitely one for the history books.

Our course is set to enhance the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, at home and abroad. Next port of call – Hospital Visits to bring greetings to our hospitalized heroes!



President Joanie Dickerson has reached celebrity status in her hometown of Bagley, Wisconsin (population 379!).

MEMBERSHIP

Linda Coppock
Dept. Chairman
Email: beatrice2554@gmail.com
Ph: 920-982-5811

Are you ready to change course? The new changes in eligibility offer great opportunities for all American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) units!

As you may have heard, all veterans since WWII are now eligible to join The American Legion (TAL). The good news for us is that there are now immeasurable opportunities for the ALA to increase membership numbers. AND, at the 2019 National Convention, The American Legion voted to allow the spouses of veterans to join the ALA! (I know of

a dual member in my county who has already signed up her husband, and we are excited to have him!)

Our membership numbers can double if we are smart about recruiting new members. It now becomes our responsibility to welcome to TAL all veterans who are not yet members. We as ALA members need to help advocate for our fellow Legionnaires the advantages of belonging to this great organization. We need to make all veterans feel welcome and comfortable in belonging to TAL. Before we can recruit Auxiliary members that are now eligible, it should be part of our Americanism, VA&R, Poppy and

Community Service programs to show all veterans and their families what we have to offer and why they should want to belong to our organization.

I keep hearing "fences need to be mended" as many veterans may feel slighted from being excluded to membership in the past. That said, we need to be the fence menders and make ALL veterans and their families feel the warmth and compassion so many of us feel from our friends in the American Legion Family.

I personally contacted a veteran who wanted to join over 20 years ago. I mentioned, should he consider membership, I know he has a sister that has wanted to

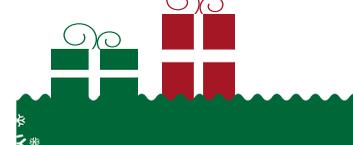
be a member for as long as I have known her. This is the best news I have to offer my sister-in-law, who has felt left out of all family conversations that involve the ALA. Not to mention, her daughter and granddaughter have been members since their birth! I am very excited for this opportunity for her to join!

So "Mateys," are we ready to set a new course, pull up anchors, sail more ships and tender a few dinghies ashore to find members, old and new?!? "Aye, Aye Captain"!!!!

Let's embrace and mentor members so we remain strong while "Anchored in Service" for the next 100 years, as we continue "Setting a Course for the Future!"

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

Financial donations are needed for the Christmas Gift Shop (CGS). Checks payable to 'ALA-Wisconsin' may be mailed to Department Headquarters noting #4402-Christmas Gift Shop in the memo field. Money is used to purchase gifts for family members of hospitalized veterans at no cost to the veteran. Thank you for supporting this program!



SETTING A COURSE FOR THE FUTURE



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Becky Mueller
Department Chaplain
Email: clarenceandbecky@aol.com
Ph: 920-833-6048

Joshua 6:20 (the Battle of Jericho)
"So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat."

Recently, the American Legion Family won a victory of our own. President Trump, with the bipartisan support of Congress, signed the LEGION Act into law. Now all service members and veterans who served since Pearl Harbor are eligible to join The American Legion. Let us SHOUT our welcome to the family! Praise God their service is finally being recognized regardless of place or time of their enlistment. Their sacrifice is being honored and remembered.

During TAL National Convention, it was voted to change the word wives to "spouses" in the American Legion Auxiliary eligibility requirements. Let us SHOUT for inclusion. We are continuing to work to include all our military and veterans' families in our American Legion family. There is still work to do but we have made strides. We must continue to work together keeping our eyes on the goal.

My prayer is that we remember that the Battle of Jericho was won by the nation of Israel working in action together. The leaders heeded the word of God and practiced it in their lives. The priests bore the Ark taking God before them. The people marched as one body to accomplish their mission – doing the same thing day after day – marching around the walls before them – not knowing the outcome but doing what was asked of them in unity. Finally, the day arrived when the results were seen and all shared in the victory SHOUT.

We have our own walls before us – the wall of trauma and disease, the wall of PTSD and brain injuries, the wall of family discord, the wall of financial struggles and unemployment, the wall of indifference to the sacrifices made, the wall of discouragement and defeat. Let us march as one family as we circle the walls – led by God – and work to bring those walls, and others, down for the glory of God and the good of our veterans, military, their families and our communities. Let us SHOUT our victory as we continue our mission of service not self. In God's holy name we pray. AMEN.

Marching to Zion

(Words by Isaac Watts, refrain and music by Robert Lowry)

*Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known,
 Join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord,
 And thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.
 We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion.
 We're marching upward to Zion,
 the beautiful city of God.*

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

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

Nicole Clapp of Iowa was elected National President for the 2019-2020 administrative year. Her theme for the year is "Celebrating a Century of Service." With her background in the healthcare field, Nicole is dedicated to serving our veterans and is especially interested in adaptive therapy programs.

Wisconsin was recognized with several awards at national convention. A complete listing is available on page A6.

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) has new membership eligibility criteria. The LEGION Act, signed into law on July 30, 2019, established two war eras for membership eligibility in The American Legion: World War I (April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918) and from World War II until the end of hostilities, as determined by Congress (December 7, 1941 to present). These new membership eligibility dates apply to the ALA as well. Until updated membership applications are available, new members joining the ALA who do not fall in the preprinted war eras may simply write "other conflict" or "LEGION Act" on their applications.

Eligibility for membership in the ALA is determined by The American Legion. At the 2019 American Legion National Convention, delegates voted to replace the word "wife" with "spouse" in their constitution and bylaws, opening membership in the ALA to male spouses of US veterans and servicemembers who served during the war eras defined by the LEGION Act. If an Auxiliary applicant applies for membership through the service of a veteran who is living, the veteran must be a current member of The American Legion.

Wisconsin made national history – Mike Rohan, Past National Commander Denise Rohan's husband, was the first male member to join the ALA. He is now a proud member of Verona ALA Unit

385. Congratulations, Mike!

National Headquarters recently mailed the 2020 membership renewal notices. Don't be surprised if you received a renewal notice even though you recently paid your dues. National pulled the mailing list in early August before most memberships had been processed so things may have "crossed in the mail." If you have questions or think you received a notice in error, please contact your unit membership chairman to confirm she forwarded your dues to department headquarters for processing.

Members may pay their dues through their unit, online at www.ALAForVeterans.org, or over the phone. Online dues can only be accepted for the 2020 membership year. If you pay by phone, please call national headquarters at 317-569-4500, Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm (Central Time). Members can pay for multiple family members at one time or for previous years if their dues have lapsed.

The 2020 Daily Sweepstakes were mailed in August. If you want additional entry forms, please call department headquarters. Only original entry forms will

be accepted for the drawing. Daily prizes are \$15, Sunday prizes are \$25, and there is a chance to win \$500 each month. Remember, you could win 366 times because winning entries are returned to the barrel after each drawing and there is an extra day due to leap year! The last day to enter is December 31, 2019. THANK YOU to everyone who already responded. Please remember that although a donation is not required to enter the sweepstakes, the money raised supports Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary programs so donations are greatly appreciated. Official sweepstakes rules are posted on the department website.

If your unit does something unique to support the Auxiliary's mission, please send me pictures of the mission in action along with a brief caption so I can highlight it in the *Wisconsin*. Submissions should be sent to deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org within 60 days of the event, including a contact person's name, daytime phone and email address in case I need to clarify any information. Your ideas may be of interest to others who would like to replicate your work in their own community.



Mike Rohan, Past National Commander Denise Rohan's husband, is the first male member to join the ALA.

VOLUNTEER? WHY ME?

Sue Hembrook
Director of Hospital Volunteers
Ph: 262-843-4791 | C: 262-945-9791
Email: genesuehem@wi.rr.com

Many of us ask ourselves, "What service can I be, I am just one person?" Well, one person can be a bright spot in the otherwise lonely day of one of our veterans who are hospitalized. You can assist with simple things like helping them play bingo when they have mobility or hearing issues. By listening to their stories – or sometimes their complaints – you let them know that someone cares. It is the small things that mean so much to our hospitalized veterans. Many are far away from family and

friends, so reaching out to provide them some companionship means so much in what is normally a dreary lonely day.

There is a process to volunteer at one of the veterans' facilities and each facility has their own standards. You will be fingerprinted and submit a background check, which is required of all volunteers, so do not feel singled out by these procedures. The VA must protect those who are vulnerable, and it is only fair that everyone comply. Also, if you volunteer at more than one facility, you must be vetted (cleared) by each facility.

You may say, "Well, I do not live near one of our VA facilities. How can I be of

service?" There are many things that you can do at home. You can send cards – especially on Veterans Day and other major holidays. If you are crafty, you can make tray favors, afghans, walker bags or other little comfort items. Each facility has a list of wish items for the veterans. These can be donated either individually or your unit as a group can collect items and send them to the facility of your choice. Contact the hospital rep at the facility and she will provide you with many opportunities to choose from.

If you are interested in volunteering, please give me a call or email me and I will answer your questions or concerns.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Jennifer Grinder
Department Chairman
Ph: 608-495-2733
Email: jennifer.grinder@gmail.com

The dedicated, passionate members of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) are one of the reasons our organization is able to serve Wisconsin's veterans and their families. Our people, you, make us unique. However, often times we are humble or bashful about the hard work we do.

Part of a good public relations strategy is awareness – making known what you do as a volunteer and member of the ALA. I en-

courage all of you to speak as passionately about the organization as you work for it. Speak about the importance and impact of the organization. Use facts such as we operate over 15 unique programs designed to help veterans and their families, including programs to help children and homeless women veterans.

In addition to human to human conversations about our organization, I also encourage you to share on social media. Let your online friends know about an upcoming event your unit or post is holding and how veterans and their families benefit from

the event. Share photos of events and unit meetings so your online friends can see the ALA in action.

There are many other ways you can contribute to the public relations efforts of our organization, too. Reach out to your local newspaper or radio station when your unit has a newsworthy event to see if they would like to cover it. Your unit could start its own Facebook page if they don't already have one. Develop a social media strategy and set measurable goals to achieve throughout the year. You could also prepare a fact sheet for the members of your

unit to use as talking points. Some things you could include are the number of members in your unit, the number of events you hosted, dollars raised for specific programs, and amount of loans, grants or scholarships given out to veterans and their families.

I am happy to assist you and your unit in any way I can this year as I serve as the Public Relations Chairman. If you are interested in any of the suggestions mentioned above but aren't quite sure where to start or how to implement them, please contact me by email, phone or you can find me on Facebook and reach out that way.

HISTORIAN

Dany Thompson
Department Historian
Ph: 920-379-6489
Email: alabgs.chairman@gmail.com

Happy Fall! It is going to be a crazy and busy year for most of us, both personally and as part of the American Legion Auxiliary. As we celebrate our 100th year and look back at all we have accomplished, let's not forget to record how we are celebrating this year and using the past to look forward to the future. I know that sounds contradictory, but in order to prepare ourselves for the next 100 years, we need to know where we have been and what we have done.

Take the 100th Celebration that Port Washington Unit 82 had in August. They celebrated the 100th year, and part of that celebration was for the kids in attendance to find different Unit and Post members and ask them questions. They learned about the organizations and got to know the stories of those who helped build our American Legion Family.

This year will be so important to record where we are and what we are doing, 100 years after we were founded. This is more than just dates and names. Those are important, but they don't tell the story of who we are. So record personal thoughts, pictures, etc. Interview those who attend your programs and meetings, even if it's just a few sentences. Have your junior members interview older members about

how the ALA impacted them personally. Find ways to make our 100th year real and tangible, so when members look back during the 200th celebration, they will know the stories and the people behind the dates and names.



Kathy Baranzky
Department Chairman
Ph: 414-628-6030
Email: kbaranzky@wi.rr.com
Co-Chairs: Bonnie Jakubczyk & Donna Jensen

Welcome to a new ALA Leadership Program. My Leadership Co-Chairs and I will be offering a variety of classes to provide valuable educational materials for those who are leaders and those who are interested in becoming leaders. We will present topics on everyday applications and inference to our organization. Choose from the following:

I'M A MEMBER, WHAT NEXT:

Become familiar with the history of the ALA – its purpose, growth, development, mission and vision. New members will learn all about ALA jargon, the structure of our organization and how to get involved. Seasoned members will have the opportunity to learn how to mentor and work with new members, using positive communication to foster individual and group performance and how to get the most out of their membership.

REPORTING – MAKING YOUR NUMBERS COUNT:

Learn how to make reporting fun. Participants will learn the reporting structure, what forms to use and how, when to use them and where to send them. Attendees will see how they fit into the big picture of our organization. New members have knowledge and understanding of the process and experience so members can achieve a greater effectiveness.

Participants will learn how to utilize the Program Action Plans and apply for awards.
HOW TO RUN A MEETING & USES OF TECHNOLOGY.

Learn how to develop and improve protocol when running a meeting. Participants will learn how to be knowledgeable, informed leaders and how to use our organization's websites to gain greater knowledge and insight into our programs and resources available to them.

CONFLICT RESOLUTIONS AND COMMUNICATION:

We are all aware of conflict and no one likes to deal with it, but at times it does make its way into our units. Participants in this program will learn how to foster a culture of goodwill within our organization. You will learn positive ways for dealing with stressful situations with difficult people, how to solve the situation effectively with communication and leadership skills.

We encourage each unit to hold at least one Leadership class of their choice. Classes include handout materials and a handbook. Cost is \$5.00 per person. The hosting unit is encouraged to have a lunch or light refreshments, which are the responsibility of the host unit. Classes will run from approximately 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Don't wait! Contact the Leadership Chairman today to secure your session. Classes will be held from October-July 1st. It is recommended to choose two or three dates to allow flexibility with scheduling.

LEGISLATIVE

Char Kiesling
Department Chairman
Email: char.kiesling@gmail.com

Established in 1923, the American Legion Auxiliary's (ALA) National Legislative Committee remains committed to one primary purpose: to provide information and assistance to ALA members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion (TAL). TAL's legislative policy is determined by elected delegates to national convention and duly elected members of the National Executive Committee. **NO OTHER PERSON OR GROUP IS AUTHORIZED TO FORM OR DETERMINE NATIONAL LEGIS-**

LATIVE POLICY. That is why it is so important that we follow these initiatives and support this committee's purpose.

The most effective way we can support TAL's initiatives is to COMMUNICATE and SHARE with unit members. Auxiliary members can then share the issues and express their views with their representatives by way of email, phone calls, Legislative Alerts, fax messages, or the most effective method of all...personal letters. These contacts can have a powerful and effective influence on members of Congress. Although other issues are important to our country's welfare, it is the issues that impact our veterans, military, and

their families that fall within our legislative realm and efforts.

Stay informed and react when you receive or hear of veterans' concerns from your National and Department Legislative chairmen, sign up to receive TAL "Dispatch", go online for the Legislative group page, and develop a relationship with your law-makers by interacting frequently about your concerns and questions. Stay in tune to not only NATIONAL alerts but also look at Wisconsin's STATE level legislation!

Recent legislation passed with the assistance of the ALA includes the LEGION Act, Bluewater Act for Navy Veterans, pay

to our Coast Guard, suicide prevention, increase homelessness healthcare, and to increase mental health care.

The recent LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service) was the biggest news shared at National Convention. It redefines eligible war eras for TAL membership eligibility, from December 7, 1941 until the U.S. is no longer at war, as determined by Congress. Now ALA members can recruit eligible descendants under the newly eligible veterans, increasing the possibilities for membership!

Help TAL and ALA "set the course" to fulfill our MISSION!

SERVICE TO VETERANS

Diane Weggen
Department Chairman
Ph: 715-644-2668
Email: dsweggen@gmail.com

For the past 100 years, the American Legion Auxiliary has been “Anchored in Service” – Service, not Self. Under the 2019-2020 leadership of President Joanie Dickerson, members will be “Setting a Course” of serving veterans, military, their families and communities “for the future”. Anchors away as members move into the future sharing their time, talents and resources with veterans in the community, state and nation.

When a member shares with non-related veterans or military families, her/his time and resources count as service to veterans and may be recorded for personal recognition and reported in the unit year-end impact report. Activities can range from preparing a casserole or baking a cake at home for a home-bound veteran and/or family, to providing transportation to appointments.

What else can members do to serve veterans?

- Check with the unit or post for opportunities to serve area veterans.
- Write articles/letters to the editor telling the community what unit members are doing for veterans.
- Visit homebound veterans or veterans in care facilities.
- Read to and/or write letters for veterans.
- Help a veteran use the internet.
- Sew quilts for the Quilts of Valor Foundation (www.qovf.org/).
- Assist with yard work or housework.
- Volunteer at a VA facility or Camp American Legion.
- Make tray favors and/or sew lap robes.
- Volunteer to call Bingo or provide snacks at a veterans' facility.
- Attend or assist with stand downs or job fairs.
- Care for a veteran to give the caretaker a break or some free time.

- Contact the Legion Service Officer at the post and offer to be on the list of people to call when a veteran or military family needs help or transportation.
- Learn about resources to help veterans access all their VA benefits, not just health care.

The “Service to Veterans” program recognizes volunteers who provide service to veterans or servicemembers and their families outside a VAMC. Members who report “Service to Veterans” hours become recipients of a “Service to Veterans” pin that has been designed to reflect the work of those who volunteer in their communities and at home for veterans. Volunteers maintain their own recordkeeping and dollars spent.

All Auxiliary members who attended or participated in the Celebration of Freedom in Portage in September had fun while honoring veterans, especially Vietnam veterans, and supported Department of Wisconsin Legionnaires. Thanks to all who were there!

We are overwhelmed with the prayers and expressions of sympathy sent to us since the passing of our sister and aunt, Teri Williams. She remains a treasured memory always in our hearts. Thank you for your support and kind words. They comfort us during this sad time. God Bless our American Legion Family!

~ Past Department President LaVon Schurman, President Joanie Dickerson and family

Thank You!

YOU CHANGED A VETERAN'S LIFE!

Department recently received a grant application from a female service member who needed assistance with her rent and telephone bill. Thanks to the generous donations of Auxiliary members throughout the state, the review committee approved her application so she could get back on her feet. Thank you for making this possible!

To the American Legion Auxiliary,

I would just like to thank everyone for the absolute generosity that has been given to me. I originally joined the Army because I wanted to be in a team environment and help in the bigger picture. After being approved for one of your grants I know the bigger picture spreads farther than just what happens in uniform but also out of uniform.

After a constant struggle I was finally admitted for my mental health for wanting to end my own life. I have always had an issue transitioning back to civilian life. I found myself starting to drown in medical debt from improper processing of paperwork and having no guidance as to how to get help.

With the help of [a Family Assistance Center Specialist] referring me to the American Legion Auxiliary your committee was able to approve me for one of your grants. The day I found out I was approved for your grant was the first day in over 2 years I felt that there was finally a light at the end of the tunnel. Before this grant I was hardly able to stay afloat or even have food for myself.

Since you have helped, I have been able to get caught up enough to where I was able to finally have my medical bills changed and put on a lower payment plan, I have got caught up on my regular bills and am getting better every day.

I can never be able to fully express or put into words how thankful and appreciative I am for having your help. This has honestly made such a big impact in my life. Please keep doing what you're doing. I know suicide is a very big thing happening with veterans. Just to know there are Committees like this to help when things are tough, and veterans are not alone is one of the best feelings.

Thank you again for letting me be a part of the bigger picture!

ALA POPPY PROGRAM

Diane Steinert
Department Chairman
Ph: 920-573-1846
Email: djdmsteinert@gmail.com

ALA Department President Joanie Dickerson's theme is “Anchored in Service, Setting a Course for the Future.” One hundred years ago a woman ‘anchored in service,’ Moina Michael, ‘set a course’ to remember those who served.

The Remembrance Red Poppy began on November 9, 1918, as a memorial to those who sacrificed their lives in WWI after Moina Michael read a poem written by Lt. Col. McCrae entitled, “We Shall Not Sleep” (later entitled “In Flanders Field”) in the November issue of Ladies Home Journal while she was on duty at the 25th Conference of the Overseas YMCA. She purchased twenty-five poppies and distributed them to the businessmen in New York attending the conference. Ms. Michael went

on to lead a campaign for the adoption of the poppy as the national symbol of sacrifice and on September 27, 1920, the Red Poppy became the official flower of The American Legion Family to memorialize the soldiers who served during WWI.

We continue to follow the course, working the Poppy Pro-

gram to honor veterans for their service and sacrifice by promoting circulation of the poppy, educating all people of the poppy's history, and the significant financial benefit realized by our nation's veterans as a result of its distribution.

Members of the American Legion Family can assist with poppy

distribution throughout the year. Poppies should be ordered prior to December 15, 2019. Members can write articles for their local newspaper or letters to the editor to help educate the community about the ALA Poppy Program. Units can sponsor a Poppy Poster Contest by contacting local schools and other youth groups to

encourage them to enter the contest.

There is so much we can do to promote the ALA Poppy Program. The 2019-2020 Poppy Program Action Plan and Poppy information and worksheets are available on the department website (www.amlegionauxwi.org) or you can contact me with any questions.



Veteran Poppy Maker James Miles demonstrates how to make a poppy at the Celebration of Freedom Event held in September. Mary was an avid learner!



Karry Kultgen, Diane Burkhalter and Mary Marchese, members of ALA Unit 82 in Port Washington, bagged almost 500,000 labels for the Zablocki Poppy Shop for production this coming year. Thank you, ladies!

American Legion Auxiliary Well Represented at 2019 National Convention in Indiana

“Serving our Heroes” was the focus of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) 2019 National Convention. National President Kathy Dungan stated, “Serving our heroes, promoting patriotism, fostering good citizenship, and supporting The American Legion...that’s the heart of our mission and our principles.”

With program, constitution and bylaws updates, Central Division Caucus lead by PCDNVP Teresa Isensee, and the Wisconsin Caucus filling our Saturday, delegates felt educated and inspired to learn more during the National Convention. The national parade held on Sunday brought states together in friendship and fun.

I asked Wisconsin 2019 National Convention delegates to share their thoughts about their convention experience. Delegates agreed that PDP Patricia Smith said it best. Pat shared, “I found Jan’s Past Presidents Parley report to be the best program - it had everything! The eulogy to Wisconsin’s PNP Pearl Behrend revealed the true circle of life as Pearl had installed Nicole Clapp as National Honorary Junior President. It was very moving that the Wisconsin delegation stood alone in memory to and honor of Pearl. The Women Veterans of the Year represented all five branches. Their

stories made us all feel extremely proud of their service. As if that were not enough, Jan went on to introduce the three Women of the Year. Each of these incredible women were amazing, determined and exemplary in the ways they found to reach out and raise up homeless veterans. They truly set a fine example of “Service not Self”. I also found the Legion’s efforts to explain the LEGION Act and to make their rules of governance less gender specific as a tremendous step forward to the unification of the American Legion Family.”

PNP Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan shared, “I’ve always been so appreciative of belonging to the Department of Wisconsin because I am constantly asked to share much that members in Wisconsin have put together for the good of the organization. In fact, many said we should package it and sell it. My response is always, if we can help with something we’ve created, we are happy to share with others.”

Indianapolis is the home of the new ALA headquarters office. Wisconsin’s Member of the Year, Bonnie Phaneuf shared, “I enjoyed the whole national convention experience. Seeing the ALA National Headquarters really put a ‘face’ on the organization.

Thank you for the opportunity to experience this event.”

In addition to the LEGION Act making a huge difference in the make-up and culture of American Legion Family, there is also a change in the ALA membership eligibility requirements. “Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion, and to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941; or who, being citizens 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 any of said periods, and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.” A woman who is eligible for American Legion membership is eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary regardless of whether or not



ALABGS Counselors/Staff were well represented at the 2019 National Convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana!

she is a member of The American Legion. However, eligibility of her female relatives and/or spouse depends upon her membership in The American Legion. Personally, I had mixed feelings about the eligibility changes, but now understand and feel the timing of these two major changes are especially fitting as we begin our next century of service for God and Country.

PDP Char Kiesling summed up other comments shared by delegates, “I enjoy how those who attend a National Convention seem to solidify friendships and share experiences and knowledge. We are so busy here and there and have little time elsewhere where

we can get to know each other and appreciate each other’s degree of dedication to our ALA. We can also learn and share with other Department delegates. It was a great reunion between our Girls Nation group, and we continue to have a special bond! I feel relationships between one another on the whole are closer after a convention together.”

I share these comments as a reminder to continue to share your ALA knowledge with other members. The more we are engaged, inspired, share and learn, the better we will serve the mission of the ALA and the American Legion Family as a whole.

By PDP Joyce E. Endres



Pearl Behrend (1923-2019)

Pearl Behrend passed away August 13, 2019 at the age of 96 years. Pearl was a proud PUFL member of Racine Unit 310 and served as Department President in 1970-1971 and National President in 1987-1988. The following excerpts are from Pearl’s eulogy, presented by Past National President Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan.

Pearl was a native New Yorker and joined Automotive Unit

#1179 in New York in 1946, eligible through the World War II and Korean Air Force service of her husband, Bing. Additional eligibility was established through the Vietnam service of her son Bill. She transferred her membership to Harvey R. Hansen Unit #310 in Racine, Wisconsin where she was honored with a life membership. She served in many positions at the unit, county and district level before serving as Department President in 1970-1971. Pearl was emphatic that ‘service, not self’ should be the main concern of the Auxiliary, proving this by driving to and from Milwaukee as a volunteer at the VA Medical Center there for five years.

Pearl’s theme for her year as National President was “Unity with Purpose”. She promoted a Smithsonian Institute study of the American Indian veteran by providing a funding source through the Auxiliary. Other special projects included encouraging units

to establish hospices at Veteran Administration medical centers through the country, and the establishment of Women Resource Centers to aid runaways, abused and neglected children and pregnant teens. In addition, she chose to assist the youth of the nation by providing additional scholarship funds for deserving students.

Pearl always brought a spirit of fun to every meeting in which she was involved, yet she was extremely serious when it came to the Auxiliary and its needs and the issues we faced. Patriotism was also a large part of Pearl’s character and was one reason among many for joining the Auxiliary. This patriotism and her gregarious spirit found a true home in the Auxiliary and her community in Racine.

Those of us privileged to call her friend, knew her to be larger than life and a voice to be reckoned with. There was never a dull moment with Pearl around. She thoroughly enjoyed life and it

showed in every aspect of her life. She was a very close friend of PDP Loretta Shellman, who also served as a National Historian. They traveled together often, always shared a room at convention and we all wondered how they managed to fit their electric carts, their luggage, and their clothes in the room provided by the hotel. I suggest that we would all have enjoyed the laughter in that room, as they tried to navigate their enclosure, bumped into each other or their carts, and shared their life stories.

Pearl was also in a league by herself. Rules were made to be broken when good could be accomplished. When she served as National President, she broke with precedent and appointed another Wisconsin Auxiliary member as her National Parliamentarian. Barbara Kranig served in that capacity during Pearl’s term in office and Barb went on to serve as National President herself, ten years later. Prior to this unusu-

al appointment, the National Parliamentarian had always been a Past National President. So, Pearl in her wisdom set some precedents that we’ve all learned from. Changes can be made if they are done for the right reason, the greater good, rather than necessarily sticking to the old habits or previously outdated rules without investigating the possibility of something new and exciting and better suited to the organization.

Pearl was generous with praise, filled with passion for her family and friends and The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. It was truly the love of her life, next to her wonderful family. She was indeed larger than life, a good friend, a mentor, a joy to be around. So, for you dear Pearl, I hope every day you have a great joke to enjoy and laugh at, a snifter of scotch, and a wonderful piece of chocolate to share it with. Happy Trails.

IN MEMORIAM: PEARL BEHREND

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY • DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN 2019-2020 NATIONAL AWARDS

AMERICANISM

Dorothy Pearl Plaque for Most Outstanding Americanism Program by a Unit in Central Division
Landt-Theil Unit 470
Saukville ~ District 2

Americanism Essay Contest
Class I, Best Essay in Central Division
Claire Meyer
(Sponsor Unknown)

Americanism Essay Contest
Class V, Best Essay in Central Division
Ben Nowak
Sponsored by Thorp Unit 118 ~ 7th District

Americanism Essay Contest
Class VI, Best Essay in Central Division
Alexander P. Phillipps
(Sponsor Unknown)

CHAPLAIN

Certificate of Appreciation
Department of Wisconsin
Becky Mueller, Department Chaplain

HISTORIAN

Certificate of Merit for Best Department History in the Central Division
Maggie Geiger, Department Historian

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Best Overall Department Junior Activities Program in the Central Division
Department of Wisconsin
Lorrie Barber, Department Chairman

MEMBERSHIP

\$25 Gift Card to New Units Chartered between 9/1/18 – 7/1/19
Stanley Handrich Unit 226
Manawa ~ District 8

Certification of Appreciation
Most Influential Person in Chartering New Unit
Mike Dzedzic
Manawa Post 226 ~ District 8

RECRUIT 5 AWARDS:

Anita (Sam) Catura, Mary Ellen Crandall, Maureen Dalton, Elizabeth Hallen, Myrna Kudronowicz, Lois Marshall, Marilyn Miller, Marsha Rohlf, Nicole Vidal

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

Unit Member of the Year
Bonnie Phaneuf
Sponsored by William Lansing Unit 360
Wauwaukee, 3rd District

POPPY

Poppy Poster Contest, Class V (Students in Grades 10 & 11)
Courtney Peterson
Sponsored by Athelstane/Silver Cliff
Unit 66, 9th District

Poppy Poster Contest, Class VI (Students in Grade 12)
Emily Shaw

Sponsored by Athelstane/Silver Cliff
Unit 66, 9th District

Best Overall Poppy Poster in Central Division

Courtney Peterson
Sponsored by Athelstane/Silver Cliff
Unit 66, 9th District

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Gold Award for Donations to National Veterans Creative Arts Festival
Department of Wisconsin
Char Kiesling, Department President

Citation Plaque for Most Outstanding VA&R Program by a Unit in Central Division
Rose Harms Unit 355
Grafton, 2nd District

VAVS MEETINGS

PERFECT ATTENDANCE CARD
Rose Wenger, Hospital Representative
Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital, Madison, WI
Bonnie Jakubczyk, Hospital Representative
Zablocki VA Medical Center, Milwaukee, WI

JULY 2019 CALENDAR FUNDRAISER WINNERS

1	15.00	Laverne Nowak	Milwaukee
2	15.00	Marjorie Broker	St Croix Falls
3	15.00	Kathleen Franklin	Sun Prairie
4	500.00	Darlene Pedersen	Prescott
5	15.00	Nancy Adams	Tomah
6	15.00	Marcella Danti	Livingston
7	25.00	Lorna Hilliard	Endeavor
8	15.00	Betty Swenson	River Falls
9	15.00	Donna Ditter	St Cloud
10	15.00	Gerry Peterson	Janesville
11	15.00	Janet Born	Shawano
12	15.00	Chris Potter	Seymour
13	15.00	Cheryl Hirschfield	Janesville
14	25.00	Gloria Geoffroy	Waukesha
15	15.00	Beulah Manteufel	Barneveld
16	15.00	Jodi Franke	Horicon
17	15.00	Janel Errthum	Lodi
18	15.00	Corinne Mueller	Plymouth
19	15.00	Barbara Moore	St Francis
20	15.00	Margaret Clark	Madison
21	25.00	Carla Corbin	Onalaska
22	15.00	Maureen O'Connor	Campbellsport
23	15.00	Shirley Rowe	Baraboo
24	15.00	Diane Kohr	Pewaukee
25	15.00	Donna Ditter	St Cloud
26	15.00	Reinhilde Hoffman	Jackson
27	15.00	Sharon Pearson	Frederic
28	25.00	Lisa Otis	Sun Prairie
29	15.00	Nancy Henschel	Howards Grove
30	15.00	Morgan Johnsen	Wausau
31	15.00	Mary Spearow	Readstown

AUG 2019 CALENDAR FUNDRAISER WINNERS

1	15.00	Patricia Radandt	New Holstein
2	15.00	Nora Schmidt	Reedsburg
3	15.00	Gloria Konieska	Burlington
4	500.00	Marybeth Nachreiner	Plain
5	15.00	Susan Dvorak	Lone Rock
6	15.00	Joyce Hoffman	Abbotsford
7	15.00	Mary Knudtson	Gays Mills
8	15.00	Karen Klunck	Sheboygan
9	15.00	Judy French	Milwaukee
10	15.00	Anna Will	Preston MN
11	25.00	Karen Pena	McFarland
12	15.00	Shirley Hillyer	Minocqua
13	15.00	Beverly Krass	Milwaukee
14	15.00	Linda Flanagan	Argyle
15	15.00	Kelly Bukowsky	Delafield
16	15.00	Laurel DuBois	Balsam Lake
17	15.00	Emma Hughes	Hartford
18	25.00	Diane Zais	Stanley
19	15.00	Valerie Feldmann-Lopez	Plymouth
20	15.00	Norma Arts	Holcombe
21	15.00	Tommy Carlson	Green Bay
22	15.00	Cal McChesney	Yuma AZ
23	15.00	Connie Murphy	Lone Rock
24	15.00	Marian Czarnocki	Wild Rose
25	25.00	Karen Nelson	Hixton
26	15.00	Robert Holewinski	Pulaski
27	15.00	Roxanne Radakovich	Milwaukee
28	15.00	JoAnn Sebo	Valders
29	15.00	Georgeanna Blackburn	Mesa AZ
30	15.00	Pauline Glentz	Alma
31	15.00	Maureen Dalton	New Richmond

MISSION IN ACTION: UNIT 372



George W. Goetz Unit 372 ALA members participated in the Belgian Days Parade in Brussels, Wisconsin. A few Auxiliary members rode the float and others walked and handed out information on the meaning of the Missing Man Table and what the ALA represents. The unit supports Adopt-A-Soldier, which serves veterans in Door and Kewaunee counties.

MISSION IN ACTION: UNIT 360



The American Legion Family in Wauwaukee hosted a party to celebrate the 100th year anniversary of The American Legion. Bonnie Phaneuf, 2019 Department Unit Member of the Year, was also honored during the program.

