



**Department of Wisconsin  
Ninth District**

**Sue Keyzers, President**

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*Honor our Country, Support our Veterans  
Sue Hembrook*

Welcome Spring,

There are a few things that I would like to remind you about. The first is to send in the names of your deceased members for the Memorial Service at the Spring Conference. We would like to be able to remember all the deceased members, even if your unit will not be represented at the meeting. If you have not sent them in yet, please call, text or email me asap.

At this point we do not have a candidate for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for the District. This is a very important position. It helps the district build strong leadership and gives the eventual candidate for 9<sup>th</sup> district president 4 years to prepare and learn about the workings of the district. District President is not a difficult position. There are between 2 and 4 meetings in the 2-year term. It is mostly a liaison position between the Department and the County/Units. You meet ladies from many different areas and get to go to Department and National Conventions. It is a fun position. If you or someone you know would consider helping out the district, please contact me, LuAnn James or Lisa Wolfinger. Everyone needs to step up at some time for the betterment of the organization and the district appreciates everyone's service.

Lastly, it is reporting time. Please get your impact reports to me by April 15<sup>th</sup>. I will be leaving on April 19<sup>th</sup> for my daughter's wedding in North Carolina and will not be back until late April, and I would like to get the reports into Department before I leave. Also, make sure that you do your program reports by the 15<sup>th</sup> of April. If you have any questions, please let me know. I would like to see 100% reporting from the units in 9<sup>th</sup> District. These reports are so important as they show the vitality of the Am

## **Membership**

I want to remind the units to be sure you have sent in 2 important forms to Department even if the deadline has passed. They are the 2027 Unit Dues Billing Amount form and the 2027 Unit Dues Collection Person form. These forms need to be completed even if there are no changes as Department is not aware there are no changes.

Highlights from the Membership report are 9<sup>th</sup> District is in 6<sup>th</sup> place with 1,279 members which is 89% of our goal of 1,437. We have 6 units at 100%, 12 units at 90-99%, and 9 units at 80-90%. We have 8 units that need 1 member to be at 100% and 7 units that need 2 members to be 100%. Hope these units can make 100% as they are so close.

To honor USA celebrating 250 years, Department President Sue Hembrook is honoring 12 National Parks during her term. By luck of the draw, 9<sup>th</sup> District has been assigned Glacier National Park. As I write this article; we just experienced Blizzard Elsa the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in Green Bay history and at the same time the news reported Glacier National Park has a warning of 65mph winds with gusts of 85mph after receiving 5 feet of snow (the front that gave us Blizzard Elsa) do you see a correlation between Wisconsin and Montana? Some interesting facts on Glacier National Park: located in Montana, spans over 1 million acres (equivalent to the size of Rhode Island). It features glaciers, mountains, lakes, and diverse wildlife. It was established in 1910 as the 8<sup>th</sup> US National Park. It was originally home to 80 glaciers and now has 26 named glaciers. There are over 700 miles of trails for hiking and walking. The park is part of the first International Peace Park, symbolizing friendship between the U.S. and Canada.

In closing, a final thought: If we open the front door to welcome new members; we must be sure to close the back door by making them feel welcome and comfortable to make suggestions, etc. or they will walk out the door. Those of us “seasoned” members myself included, need to stop and smell the roses, AKA our new members.

LuAnn James, 9<sup>th</sup> District Membership Chairman, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT:**

What are you doing for your community? Making our communities better places in which to live is something Auxiliary members strive for each day across this country. The Community Service Program Engagement Plan challenges ALA members to become visible within our communities by working on service projects and collaborating with other organizations so that more people recognize the American Legion Auxiliary’s local efforts to support our veterans, service members, their families, and our communities.

A major outreach program of the Auxiliary since 1926, Community Service also demonstrates our longstanding commitment to supporting the work of American Legion posts and other organizations in providing assistance with blood drives, first aid and CPR training, child safety programs, support for women in shelters, and disaster and emergency preparedness programs.

We can start planning on participating in the 9/11 National Day of Service. The American Legion Auxiliary encourages all of our members to find ways to do that in remembrance to pay tribute to the victims of 9/11 through Charitable service and good deeds. Maybe plan on clean-up day in your local parks. Or maybe help with Habitat for Humanity.

Do you read to children? Do you volunteer at your local emergency shelter, or maybe record your hours and don't forget to include your mileage on your tracking sheets. Do you help at your church or the local food pantry? This too is recordable hours. If you can, please wear your ALA clothing to your event.

***Things that do **\*\*NOT\*\*** count as Community Service***

- Something reported in another committee's report.
  - We celebrate all service, but please only report your service in one committee.
- Any hours for VAVS.
- Directly assisting a veteran, servicemember, or a member of their family (this should go under VA&R, National Security, or Children & Youth).
  - For example, volunteering somewhere like the Fisher House or a stand down would go under VA&R, volunteering at a Yellow Ribbon event would go under National Security, etc.
- Tithes to a place of worship.

In fact, I did think my donations to my place of worship would count, but I guess I was wrong.

I did find out that if you donate to a non-profit that does count. I was also informed that if your donation was doubled you could claim the doubled amount on your tracking sheet, but on your IRS contributions you could only record the amount donated. Another item, is if you have Thrivent Direct Choice Dollars you can also recode that on your tracking sheet. In fact, I just directed \$14 Direct Choice Dollars to Veterans' Village in Appleton. I recorded this on my monthly tracking sheet to my Unit President.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [rozkar@new.rr.com](mailto:rozkar@new.rr.com) or call me at 920-850-1941.

**Chaplains & Music**

Could you please ask your units to send a prayer, song, poem along with name and unit, also who the author is. I would greatly appreciate it. You can email or mail the information to Sandy Mack. Her information is in the Red Book.



**Purple Up Day is observed every year on April 15, during the Month of the Military Child.**

**It is an opportunity to honor military children from all branches of the military. Military children across the country play a significant role in their schools, youth organizations, and communities.**

**The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Military Youth and Family Program established Purple Up Day as a way to support them. It lets them know that they are recognized and appreciated. They make many sacrifices to make sure the country is safe.**

**So deck yourself out in purple to recognize them and Come on out to the Dome Sports Bar & Grill, 1338 Commercial St. Neenah, April 10, 2026, from 5pm-8pm!**

**The Neenah American Legion Auxiliary will there celebrating these children and volunteering to raise funds for the American Legion Auxiliary by sharing the Dome's profits that night so, come hungry!**