



Auxiliary Newsletter

August 2026

Issue 13

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2 nd Vice President	Shirley Krier Shirleykrier43@gmail.com
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Treasurer	Mary Montag Thumpermon50@gmail.com
Historian	Shannon Wynveen shannonwynveen@yahoo.com
Chaplain	Natalia Genovesi-King inggenovesi@gmail.com
Parliamentarian	Amy Luft amyluft@gmail.com
Sgt-at-Arms	Eunice Seering Eunice.seering@gmail.com
Asst Sgt-at-Arms	Shirley Krier Shirleykrier43@gmail.com

Program Chairperson

Children & Youth	Mary Petrie mmrtpetrie@charter.net
Community Service	Jan Williams Nurseonawing@gmail.com
Constitution, Bylaws & Standing Rules	Mary Montag Thumpermon50@gmail.com
Leadership	Sandy Mack Smack0555@gmail.com
Legislation	Maggie Geiger Maggieg4ala@gmail.com
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Membership – Ozaukee, Sheboygan & Washington	Maggie Geiger Maggieg4ala@gmail.com
Membership – Jefferson	Shirley Krier Shirleykrier43@gmail.com
National Security	Carol Szudrowitz Carol43szud@gmail.com
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Public Relations/Facebook Administrator	Kristy Wakeman Kareuter19@gmail.com
Veterans Affairs & Rehab	Shirley Krier Shirleykrier43@gmail.com

From the President's Desk

Another Department Convention is in the books and let me tell you – I couldn't be prouder of District 2.

Our very own Amy Luft was sworn in as Department President for 2026-2027.

Maggie Geiger was elected Central Division National Vice President.

District 2 took top honors being the District with the most units reporting online. Our first-place prize was a check for \$25.00 (and bragging rights).

In addition, there were only two entries for the Service Member of the Year award. Both entries coming from units in District 2. Congratulations to Sergeant First Class Jessica Starks from Post 208 in Rio for being selected as the service member of the year.

Let's keep the momentum going and make the next twelve months even better.

Kathy Olson

Congratulations!

Dates to Remember

August 4, 2026 – U.S. Coast Guard's Birthday (1790)

August 7, 2026 – Purple Heart Day

August 10, 2026 – Agent Orange Awareness Day

August 28 – September 3, 2026 – National ALA Convention – Louisville, KY

August 29, 2026 – U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Birthday (1916)



DON'T MISS THE EXCITEMENT!



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY *National Security Contest*

Your Unit Can Shine By Taking
On These Patriotic Challenges!



- HONOR AND REMEMBER OUR POW/MIA HEROES AT EVERY MEETING AND GATHERING.
- BRING POW/MIA AWARENESS TO YOUR COMMUNITY THROUGH EVENTS, ARTICLES, AND CEREMONIES.
- PRESENT A BLUE STAR BANNER TO A LOCAL MILITARY FAMILY AND RECOGNIZE ANY GOLD STAR FAMILIES.
- CELEBRATE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS ENTERING THE MILITARY WITH CORDS, BANNERS, OR SPECIAL RECOGNITION.

Complete all 4 and your Unit earns a certificate of recognition!
When you're done, the Unit President can share a short recap and
photos with the Program Chairman at KingGenovesi@gmail.com



BONUS CHALLENGE:

SUBMIT A SALUTE TO SERVICEMEMBERS AWARD NOMINATION TO
HONOR A SERVICEMEMBER WHO GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR
BOTH COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY.



Finish all 5 items, and your Unit will also be considered for the
National Security Program of the Year honors!
The District with the highest percentage of Units completing
Items 1–4 earns an ALA Table Banner.

Get to know your District 2 Officers

District 2 is made up of 6 Counties, 40 Units and 2,114 members (2025 paid memberships). The area ranges from Wisconsin Dells, Fort Atkinson, to Sheboygan and all the area in between. It is a far-reaching District. There are 9 officers that lead the District from all different Units. Let's get to know a little about these 9 officers. This month highlighting...

Kristy Wakeman is our 2nd District **Secretary**

Kristy has been a member of the Francis Cuff American Legion Auxiliary Unit 208 in Rio, WI for 4 years.

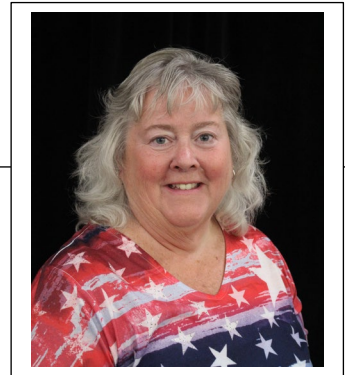
She also holds the following positions – Rio Unit 208 Treasurer, Columbia County Council Secretary and Department of Wisconsin Public Relations Chairperson. She previously held the position of Rio Unit 208 Historian.

Kristy is eligible for the Auxiliary through her father A1C Nelvin Olson. He was a proud Air Force aircraft mechanic. He was the crew chief for the F-100 Super Sabre (American supersonic jet fighter) and stationed in Etain-Rouvers Air Base located in France.

Kristy would like to let you know the following information about herself -

I joined the Rio American Legion Auxiliary after I retired from my job at the USDA – Farm Service Agency in Columbia County, where I had worked for 36 years. I jumped into the Auxiliary with both feet and do not regret it. I enjoy helping and working with all the veterans and Unit members.

Let's remember that this organization is about Service, Not Self.



National Convention

The National Convention will be held August 28-September 3, 2026, in Louisville, KY.

Information concerning the convention can be found at the following website -

<https://www.legion-aux.org/meetings/national-convention>

Please consider attending.



**Taking care of business at
ALA National Convention**

Committee Chair
Kristy Wakeman
Kareuter19@gmail.com
920-210-2356

Department of Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

PUBLIC RELATIONS

www.amlegionauxwi.org/publicrelations

Join Us for Zoom Chats

FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

Date: September 23, 2026
January 27, 2027
April 28, 2027

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Connect with members across Wisconsin as we support veterans, military families, youth, and our communities through service, education, and advocacy.

- Stay informed on department updates and initiatives
- Share ideas and strengthen unit communication
- Build connections with members statewide
- Learn new ways to promote our mission in your community
- Promote a positive image

All members welcome.

Community Service

District 2 Chairperson

Jan Williams

Thank you so much to all the units who reported hours, miles, and dollars in April for 25-26. National reports all that information to Congress and it is converted to veteran services. It's hard to believe the report year for 26-27 is 1/3 over already. I hope your unit is keeping track of all they do for others. We know ALA members are very generous with time, talent and treasures they share throughout Wisconsin and beyond. The key is keeping track of it on a calendar, phone, notebook or tracking sheet, whatever works for each person. The recipients of ALA generosity all appreciate our efforts, but to help veteran funding, we need to file the annual reports.

Most activities we do for others without expectation of repayment is reportable. For example; if you donate a pie it may sell for \$20. If you break down the time to purchase the supplies, make the pie, drive to the store and then deliver the pie, your time, mileage, and dollars count for veterans as well as what it sells for. Much more is returned than the \$20 sale price. Multiply this to all the "good works" and it really adds quickly to a grand total. Community Service is a great place to report things that may fit into other categories. Sometimes it's hard to decide where to report if we're not sure which one is correct. If it's not a direct service to veterans, community service is a safe place to report any unsure gifts or services.

Enjoy the rest of summer and the fall. These are prime times for good works before we in Wisconsin start to hibernate after Christmas.

If you unit has questions, please contact me or any of the District 2 staff for help.

Amazon Shopping

The national organization has partnered with SmileAssociate to turn everyday Amazon shopping into donations to the ALA – **at no additional cost to the shopper!** Shoppers use a unique link that will take them directly to their Amazon account so they can start shopping. 1.5% of the total sale will automatically be paid to the ALA entity you select on a quarterly basis. Who shops on Amazon? Who wants to support the ALA or ALA Badger Girls State? Simply click on one of the links below and your purchases will turn into profit for ALA-Wisconsin or ALA Badger Girls State – but you can only pick one organization per purchase.

[Amazon: Donate to ALA-WI](#)

[Amazon: Donate to ALABGS](#)

Shoppers do not need to be Auxiliary members. Anyone who shops on Amazon can support this great cause! Please share this message with EVERYONE within your reach of distribution!

Thank you for your support!

Past Presidents Parley

The Past Presidents Parley (PPP) is a committee of the Department of Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary. It is open to members who have served as a past president in a unit, county, district, department or national level.

Eligibility to membership in PPP is based on two factors –

1. Member is a past president defined as

- a. A member who served as president for one full year or
- b. A member who served as president for part of the year and who, due to illness or conditions beyond their control, had to terminate their tenure or
- c. Any vice president acting as president due to the resignation or death of the president.

NOTE: If presidents succeed themselves in office, they are considered a past president after the end of their first term and may then join the PPP.

2. Members unit dues are paid for the current year.

The Wisconsin PPP currently awards three (3) \$1,000 scholarships (paid through dues & donations) to applicants entering nursing programs or other health care careers.



There is also a Mentor of the Year Award that is awarded to a past president that has gone beyond the unit level and is continuing to be a leader and mentor to members of our organization. A letter of nomination not to exceed 1,000 words must be sent in by May 15th to the PPP Chairman.

The PPP dues and Scholarship donation fillable forms can be found on the Wisconsin Auxiliary website under Forms. You can either bring the form to Department Convention and give it to PDP Linda Coppock along with your \$7 dues or mail it into Department.

Scholarship donations are accepted from individuals, units, fundraisers or a Unit's Past Presidents Parley.

Department Convention Recap

The Department of Wisconsin Convention was held July 16-19, 2026, in Appleton, WI. It was attended by many from District 2. Following is a little recap of what occurred.

- Motion was passed that the Departments portion of dues would increase for Senior by \$6.00 and Junior dues by \$0.25 for the 2028 membership year. National dues will stay at the same rate, for the 2028 membership year.
- District 2 members were recognized for their bowling at the WI ALA State Bowling 9-Pin Tap Tournament. Laura Thompson of Wisconsin Dells - 1st place in All Events and 1st place in Singles; Heather Gebauer & Toni Moegenburg of Grafton - 1st Place for Doubles; Pollyanna Johns & Laura Thompson of Wisconsin Dells - 3rd place in Doubles and Toni Moegenburg of Grafton - 3rd place in Singles. Next years bowling will be April 3-4, 2027, at New London.
- A resolution for the Membership Committee was approved. This resolution will add an additional member to the committee and allow members of the Department Executive Board to be eligible for appointment to the Membership Committee.
- All proposed changes to the Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules were approved as presented. When you are reviewing your documents make sure these changes are included.
- National Security Chairman Bob Shappell presented the Service Member of the Year award to Sergeant First Class Jessica Starks who is a member of the Rio American Legion Post 208 in District 2.
- The following District 2 members were elected or appointed to Department positions
 - Amy Luft – Department President
 - Sandy Mack – Department Historian
 - Maggie Geiger – National Executive Committeeperson
 - Jan Williams – Department Assistant Sgt-at-Arms
 - Natalia Genovesi-King – Department Chair for National Security
 - Kristy Wakeman – Department Chair for Public Relations
 - Dawn Rudey – Department Chair for Fundraising
 - Sandy Mack – Department Chair for ALA “In The Know”
 - Toni Moegenburg – Department Committee Member for WALASBA (Bowling Committee)
 - Margie Schoonover - Department Committee Member for WALASBA (Bowling Committee)
 - Mary Petrie – Department Chair for Children & Youth/Liaison-Child Welfare Fdn.
 - Bob Shappell – Department Chair for Leadership
 - Maggie Geiger – Department Committee Member for Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) Homeless Women Veterans Grant Chairman
- District 2 represented in other positions
 - Kathy Olson will remain as the District 2 President for her second year in her term.
 - Maggie Geiger - Central Division National Vice President

District 2 was also recognized, as stated in President Kathy’s report, for the new Online reporting.

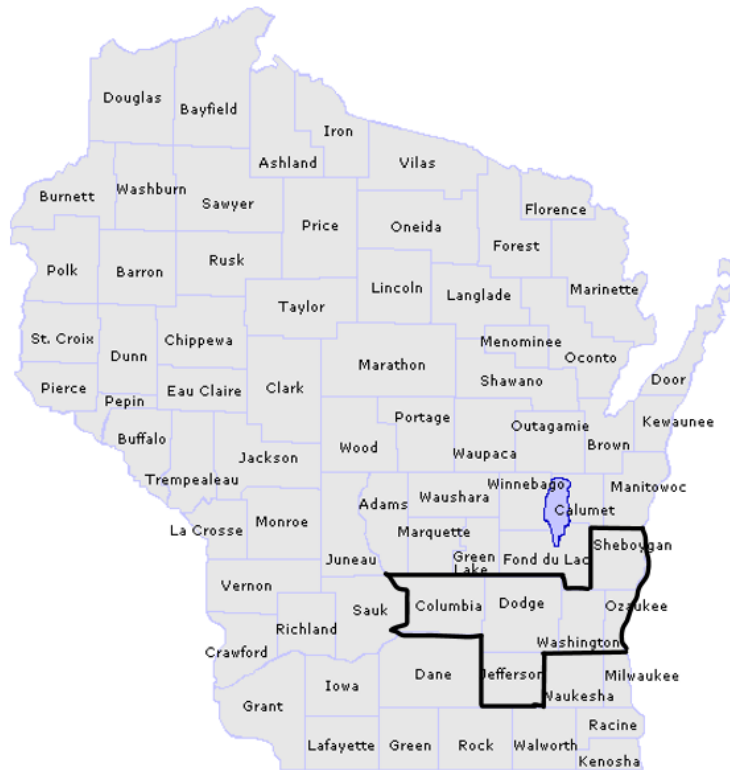
There were 92 baskets raffled during the three days of the convention. They raised \$4,925.00.

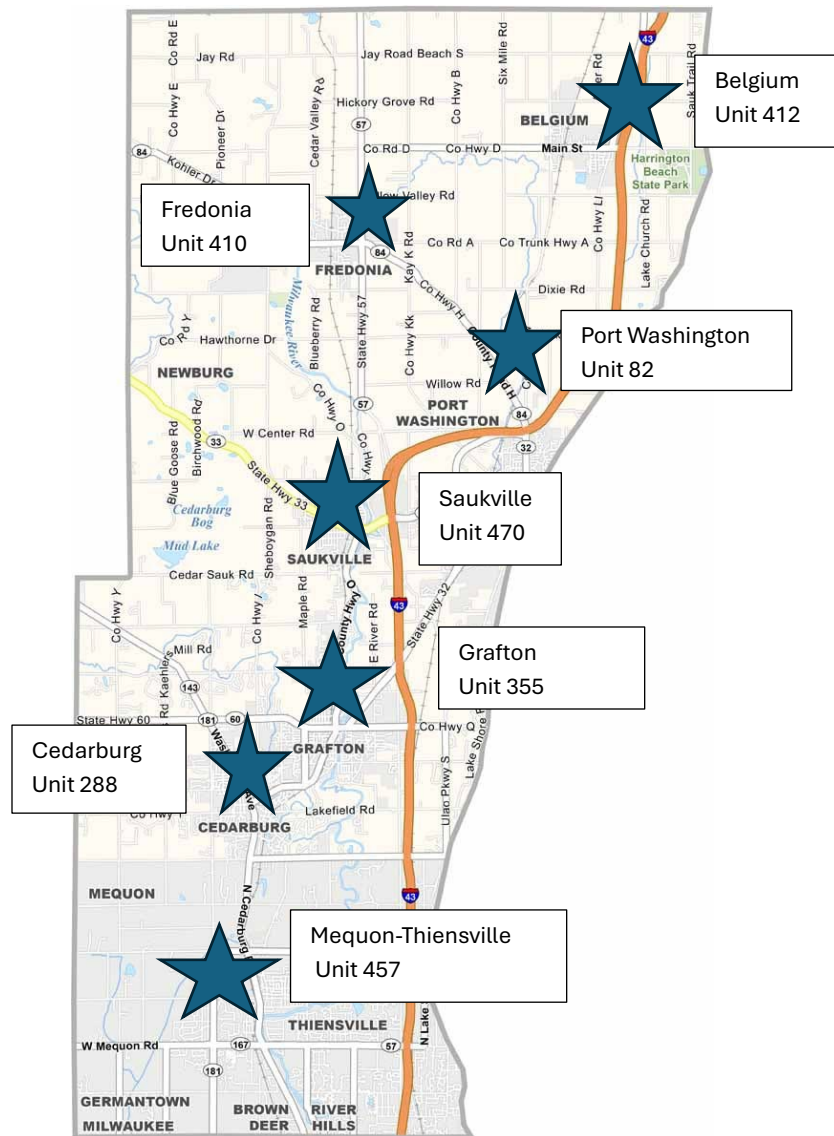
Congratulations to the new Officers, Chairs and Committee members.

Let’s keep up the great work this next year!!

Counties

District 2 is made up of 6 counties in the state of Wisconsin. Each month we will highlight one of the counties and the Units within that county. This month we are highlighting Ozaukee County.





Ozaukee county is a county located in south-east Wisconsin. There are 7 Units in the county.

The ALA County Executive Board is – President Maggie Geiger; 1st Vice President Natalia Genovesi-King; Treasurer & Historian Shirley Krier; Secretary Sandy Mack; Chaplain Julie Stuhlmacher, Parliamentarian Amy Luft; Sgt-at-Arms Sandy Hubing and Asst. Sgt-at-Arms Ellen Liska.

The Unit Presidents are – Sandra Hubing, Belgium; Chris Skidmore, Cedarburg; Ellen Liska, Fredonia; Kelly Rieck, Grafton; Catherine Lubinski, Mequon-Thiensville; Diane Burkhalter, Port Washington; and Nora Brophy-Matthews, Saukville.



Membership

This year's membership theme is ***Wings of Honor – Helping our Heroes Take Flight.***

Goal for the Department is 100% of memberships paid by December 31, 2026.

Membership Awards are as follows for this year –

- **Individual Awards**

- *Carry On Award Recruit 1 Award* – Members who recruit a NEW or REJOIN and EXPIRED member for 2027 will receive a luggage tag. Only one entry per recruiter. Entry forms must be received at Department PRIOR to May 28, 2027.
- *Frequent Flyer Recruiting Award* – The top three recruiters will receive a cash prize of: 1st place - \$100, 2nd place - \$75, 3rd place - \$25. The Frequent Flyer Award entry form must be received at Department PRIOR to May 28, 2027.
- *2027: RECRUIT/REJOIN 10 Award* – National will award a special gift selected by the 2027 National Membership Chairman to Members who recruit and/or rejoin 10 junior or senior Auxiliary members for the 2027 membership year. Rejoins must not have paid membership dues since 2023 or earlier. Only one entry per recruiter. The 2027: RECRUIT/REJOIN 10 entry form must be submitted to Department Headquarters PRIOR to May 28, 2027.

- **Unit “Prepare for Take-Off” Awards**

- Membership dues must be at Department Headquarters PRIOR to the goal date to be considered eligible. Units must have the 2026-2027 Unit Officer Form submitted to Department with ALL listed Officers' dues paid to be eligible.

%	# OF WINNERS	AMOUNT	DATE
75%	1 Unit	\$100.00	Sept. 30, 2026
85%	1 Unit	\$150.00	Oct. 31, 2026
95%	1 Unit	\$200.00	Nov. 30, 2026
100%	1 Unit	\$250.00	Dec. 31, 2026

- **FINAL DESTINATION AWARD**

100%	1 entry for each Unit	December 31, 2026
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- 1 winner picked at random will receive: 2 paid Department Convention registrations, 1 paid room for a 2-night stay in the convention hotel, recognition on stage during convention, and 2 passes to the Commander's party on Saturday night for the 2027 Department Convention.

Officers need to pay their Unit dues by September 30, 2026.

Dues can either be paid over the phone by calling National direct @ 317-569-4570 (Mon.-Fri. 7:00 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.), online by logging on to the National website at www.ALAFORVeterans.org, or they can pay their membership chairperson at their Unit.

2027 Membership Goals

		UNIT	CITY	2027 GOAL
02	Columbia	0062	Columbus	16
		0187	Wisconsin Dells	38
		0208	Rio	33
		0215	Pardeeville	37
		0216	Lodi	37
		0271	Poynette	23
		0401	Cambria	47
		Total		231
	Dodge	0015	Juneau	56
		0069	Mayville	83
		0146	Beaver Dam	74
		0157	Horicon	85
		0270	Theresa	26
		0347	Lomira	31
		0420	Hustisford	15
		0521	Fox Lake	99
		Total		472
	Jefferson	0067	Lake Mills	46
		0164	Jefferson	31
		0166	Fort Atkinson	53
		0189	Watertown	78
		0233	Waterloo	41
		0305	Johnson Creek	26
		Total		275
	Ozaukee	0082	Port Washington	73
		0288	Cedarburg	152
		0355	Grafton	169
		0410	Fredonia	18
		0412	Belgium	28
		0457	Mequon-Thiensville	39
		0470	Saukville	135
		Total		614
	Sheboygan	0083	Sheboygan	34
		0145	Random Lake	13
		0149	Sheboygan Falls	30
		0243	Plymouth	127
		0387	Franklin	43
		0462	Adell	12
		Total		259
	Washington	0036	West Bend	24
		0321	Germantown	35
		0384	Kewaskum	78
		0483	Allenton	91
		0486	Jackson	76
		0522	Hubertus	27
		Total		331
	Total			2182

The goal is based off the unit's 2025 PAID membership as of 7/31/2025 x 1%.