

WISCONSIN



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American Legion Auxiliary
P.O. Box 140
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www.amlegionauxwi.org

MEMBERSHIP

Sue Hembrook
Department Chair

GROW OUR MEMBERSHIP, POPPY UP FOR A VETERAN!

Members, we are all embarking on a brand-new membership year. The race is on! Memberships for 2024 can be paid via credit or debit card on the national website (alaforveterans.org) and you can automatically print off a 2024 membership card for your convenience. You can also pay over the phone by calling national headquarters during normal business hours at 317-569-4570. What an easy way to ensure your membership continues on!

Membership packets were sent out so you can also pay your unit's membership chairman. Membership chairmen, if you have not

received your packet, please contact Andrea Stoltz at Department Headquarters as soon as possible (608-745-0124).

President Maggie, Becky Mueller, Amy Luft and I are here to help you in any way that we are able. We urge you to call us with any concerns you may have. We also want to hear of your new members, projects and all the fun stuff your units, districts and counties have accomplished. We are encouraging everyone to have fun in all you do to support our Veterans, military and their families. We plan to work together with our Legion and SAL counterparts to promote membership within our ranks. It takes each and every one of us to get the word out. We are our own best kept secret!!! Get out there in your communities wearing your branded clothing. You already are active in your communities, so

spread the word that you are an integral part of the Legion Family. Advertise what you do in the community. Do things out of the box and share your accomplishments. Let's get in the race!

Your membership team consisting of Becky Mueller, Amy Luft and myself Sue Hembrook are ready and willing to assist you in any way that we can. District Presidents and their Membership Chairmen have also been instructed to reach out to their units to offer support. We need to work membership together to be successful!

The details of our "race" will be announced in the next Unit Mailing and *Wisconsin*. In the meantime, let's start off this membership year with the bang of the starting pistol. The first membership award is due on Veterans Day. All units at 100% are eligible. Two units will

be awarded \$150 each.

Thank you for all that each and every one of you contributes to this wonderful organization.

Your Department Membership Team, guided by President Maggie Geiger:

Sue Hembrook

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(H) 262-843-4791 / (C) 262-945-9791

Becky Mueller

clarenceandbecky@aol.com
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Amy Luft

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414-651-7300

102nd American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention Highlights



President Linda Coppock and Commander Julie Muhle rode the American Legion Riders Back to Basics Run to convention.



President Linda Coppock presented eight Awards for Excellence. Pictured with Lone Rock Unit 383 President Lisa Bowen.



2023-2024 American Legion Family Leaders: TAL Commander Karl Stuvengen, ALA President Maggie Geiger, SAL Detachment Commander Allen Watry.



2023-2024 ALA Department Officers (front row): Chaplain Betty Stone, 2nd VP Amy Luft, 1st VP Sue Hembrook, President Maggie Geiger, Sr VP Becky Mueller, Historian Mary Petrie; (back row) Sergeant-at-Arms Morgan Johnsen, Alternate NEC Linda Coppock, Dept Secretary-Treasurer Bonnie Dorniak, NEC Bonnie Jakubczyk, Sergeant-at-Arms Christine Johnsen.



2023-2024 ALA District Presidents (front row): Sandy Mack, District 2; Kathy Grom, District 4; Dept President Maggie Geiger; Diane Steinert, District 6; Linda Tryczak, District 8; Mary Townsend, District 10; (back row): Zondra Morris, District 1; Karen Runk, District 3; Christina Petranovich, District 7; Bonnie Blink, District 9; Claudia Osero, District 11. Not pictured: Linda Bartell, District 5 and Sandy Garlie, District 12.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Betty Stone
 Department Chaplain
 bjstone626@hotmail.com

Psalms 16:11 NIV— *You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

New Beginnings

We are looking toward a new year in membership, leaders, and program chairpersons. What a joy to start fresh and put into practice what we learned from our experiences from the past. Let us pray:

Dear Lord of Heaven and Earth,

We come to you with praise and thanksgiving for the opportunities you have given us to serve the Veterans, community, and nation and make their lives brighter, giving us the joy of helping others. We pray for eyes that will see the opportunities you set before us. As we start this year, may we be ever mindful of your presence and the power that only comes through you. Give us a loving heart as we work together in our units, districts, and department. Give us understanding so misunderstandings do not happen in our ranks. Lastly, give Maggie and the other officers the energy and enthusiasm it takes to be an exceptional officer as they perform their duties. In your most precious name, Amen.

Music

Songwriter: Lee Greenwood

GOD BLESS THE USA

And I'm proud to be an American
 Where at least I know I'm free.
 And I won't forget the men who died
 Who gave that right to me.
 And I'd gladly stand up next to you
 And defend Her still today,
 'Cause there ain't no doubt
 I love this land.
 God Bless the USA!

We live in a wonderful country. Let us tell others of the pride we have for living in the USA – the best in the world!

THANK YOU

With the passing of brother/brother-in-law, Bob Blom, we would like to extend to everyone who sent a card, donation, email, text message, plant or flowers, and to those who attended the service, a heartfelt thank you for your condolences, hugs, prayers and support during a very difficult time. We are so blessed to be part of such a great and compassionate organization.

~ PDP Linda Coppock
 and PDP Diana Blom

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

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

Congratulations to Linda Coppock on a successful year as Department President. The 102nd ALA Department Convention started with President Linda Coppock participating in the Back to Basics Legion Ride and concluded with the installation of 2023-2024 Department Officers at the Central Wisconsin Convention & Expo Center in Rothschild.

Convention highlights included reports from department program chairs; tributes to Honored PDP Sue Vorwald (2008-2009) and Linda Cason on her 50 years of employment with ALA-Wisconsin; recognition of Unit Member of the Year Cathy Wilbur, Honorary Junior President Lindsay Stiff, Junior Member of the Year

Natalie Myers, ALA Badger Girls State Governor Emerson Vahlsing, and Little Miss Poppy Avery Smith; introduction of TAL Candidate for National Commander James LaCoursiere (2024-2025); remarks from WDVA Secretary James Bond; and an ice cream social! The Past Presidents Parley (PPP) voted to increase PPP dues to \$7, effective immediately; and President Linda Coppock presented eight Department President's Awards for Excellence.

A special thanks goes out to SuAnn Pangel-Rast of Almond Unit 339 for her expertise in creating the PowerPoint slide show presentation that accompanied all the program reports!

The convention closed with the installation of new district presidents and department officers. Newly elected Department President Maggie Geiger's theme for the upcoming year is "Enhancing the Lives of our Veterans, Military and their Families – One Day at a Time" and her special project is Dogs2DogTags, which places

trained dogs with deserving service members who have been diagnosed with post-combat stress and anxiety (dogs2dogtags.org).

Although we are still collecting dues for the 2023 membership year, 2024 membership cards and rosters were mailed to the units in mid- to late July. Any unit that has not received their membership packet should contact Andrea Stoltz at department headquarters immediately.

2024 renewal notices will be mailed by the national organization in mid-September, but you don't have to wait until then to renew your dues. To expedite processing, you can pay your dues online (www.ALAforVeterans.org) or call the national organization during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 7 am – 3:30 pm Central Time). Members who pay for multiple people can take care of everyone's dues with one simple phone call to 317-569-4570! New members for 2024 can be processed after September 1.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Karen Degner, Dept. Chair
 kdegner88@gmail.com
 920-918-9772

As we begin a new year, we can support those currently serving and their families by supporting their Soldier & Family Readiness Groups. Other ways to be involved include nominating an Enlisted Servicemember for the Salute to Servicemembers Award, providing military honor cords to graduating high school seniors committed to military service, including POW/MIA recognition at meetings, and being a resource for gas/food gift cards for servicemembers in need in your area or in the state.

Donations to the Support Military Families fund can help with emergency financial needs. Sending coupons to overseas commissaries and remembering military family recognition months are always ways to support the National Security program. November is Military Family Appreciation Month, Purple Up is in April for the Month of the Military child, Military Spouse Appreciation and Armed Forces Day are in May. These are special times we can thank those serving and their families for their service and sacrifice.

Emergency Preparedness is another aspect of National Security and includes having a plan in case of fire or natural disaster. The Ready WI website has information and guidance for you to make a plan.

What do you do to support the National Security Program that you would like to share with others throughout the state?

I realize we just finished with year-end reporting, but keep track of all you do throughout the year and remember next April to complete and submit Unit Year End Reports. We can't all do everything or every program, however, by providing the unit name, number and city with a zero for any programs your unit isn't able to support counts as reporting!

Send me photos throughout the year in support of the National Security program. Reach out to let me know if you are interested in becoming a resource for the military community. I would love to hear from you by phone or email or come to your meeting.

ALA MEMBER JOINS DOD DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EXPERT ADVISORY PANEL

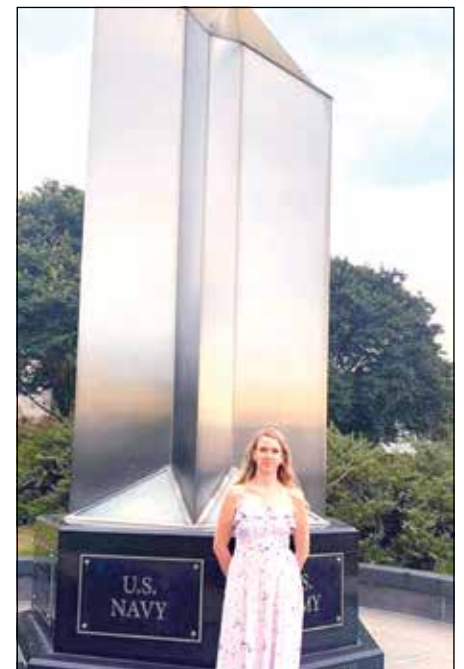
Submitted by Betty Glaser
 Unit 511, Ridgeland

Kyler Steffe has been a member of Willard L. Hinzman ALA Unit 511 in Ridgeland for 27 years. While attending Winona State University, she was a student advocate for victims of gender-based violence and helped run the university's sexual abuse report hotline. She graduated in 2016 with a Communication Studies major with a leadership and advocacy emphasis, and two minors in women, gender, and sexuality studies and social justice.

After college Kyler worked as a legal advocate at a domestic violence and sexual assault agency in Winona, Minnesota before moving to the West Coast where she worked as a legal advocate at her community's domestic violence services agency and then at her county's child advocacy center where she advocated for and assisted children, teens, and adults with civil protection orders.

In the beginning of 2023 she took the role as the Navy's Family Advocacy Program Victim Legal Advocate. Her main responsibilities are speaking with and supporting survivors of domestic abuse and sexual abuse, assisting with civilian protection orders and/or military protection orders, safety planning, empowering survivors, and assisting survivors to obtain resources for safety.

Kyler was nominated by her boss with the Family Advocacy Program in the Navy to be a subject expert about domestic abuse in the Armed Forces. 734 Navy personnel across the nation and overseas were nominated for the subject matter expertise topic and 20 were chosen to represent the Navy. The Department of Defense (DOD) has selected Kyler to be a member of the domestic violence expert advisory panel with a focus on improving survivors' access to domestic abuse services in the U.S. Armed Forces. The DOD is conducting this panel as a Congressionally mandated study to provide analyses and recommendations for improving domestic abuse prevention and response in the U.S. Armed Forces.



Kyler Steffe in front of the Armed Forces monument, submitted by Kyler Steffe.

The panel will have representatives from each branch of the Armed Forces, and Kyler Steffe will be representing the U.S. Navy. These domestic violence experts will meet with the head leaders of the DOD to discuss access to domestic violence services for survivors of violence, identify what needs to be improved, and what changes can be made in governing policy to assist victims. Kyler recently received an email from Washington, D.C. headquarters congratulating her on this new position.

The ALA members of Unit 511 are so proud of Kyler and the difference she is making! Kyler is the daughter of Mike and Becky Steffe. Mike is the Commander for American Legion Post 511 and Becky Steffe is the President of ALA Unit 511.



American Legion Auxiliary 2023 State Convention Citations



President's Award for Excellence – Linda Coppock, Department President

8 – awarded to Orfordville Unit 209, District 1; Port Washington Unit 82, District 2; Grafton Unit 355, District 2; Saukville Unit 470, District 2; Lone Rock Unit 383, District 3; Shiocton Unit 512, District 9; Abrams Unit 523, District 9; Grantsburg Unit 185, District 12.

Chaplain – Linda Kostka, Department Chaplain

2 – Certificates of Recognition – awarded to Green Bay Unit 11, District 9; Grantsburg Unit 185, District 12.

Children & Youth – Mary Petrie, Department Chairman

6 – 'Believe & Achieve' Awards – awarded to Port Washington Unit 82, District 2; Watertown Unit 189, District 2; Saukville Unit 470, District 2; Neenah Unit 33, District 6; Thorp Unit 118, District 7; New London Unit 263, District 8.

History – Sue Turowski, Department Historian

1 – Best overall (District) Certificate of Merit – awarded to Judy Kuta of District 2.
1 – Best overall (Unit) Certificate of Merit – awarded to Alyssa Fraser of Thorp Unit 118, District 7.
8 – Certificates of Participation – awarded to Susan Christian of Watertown Unit 189, District 2; Mary Molaski of Grafton Unit 355, District 2; Darlene Meyers of Franklin Unit 387, District 2; Janet Brown of Lone Rock Unit 383, District 3; Patricia Katalinick of Chilton Unit 125, District 6; Vickie Dux of Neillsville Unit 73, District 7; Amanda Szalewski of Wausau Unit 10, District 8; Rose Heinz of Appleton Unit 38, District 9.

Leadership – Joyce Endres, Department Chairman

1 – Unit Member of the Year – awarded to Cathy Wilbur of Appleton Unit 38, District 9.
1 – Honorable Mention - awarded to Jean Hensen of Waunakee Unit 360, District 3.

Legislative – Diane Weggen, Department Chairman

5 – Certificates of Recognition – awarded to Diane Burkhalter of Port Washington Unit 82, District 2; Susan Christian of Watertown Unit 189, District 2; Deborah Niebuhr of Cross Plains Unit 245, District 3; Susan Wells of Neillsville Unit 73, District 7; Marla Knuettel of New London Unit 263, District 8.

M. Louise Wilson – Joan Chwala, Department Chairman

1 – Certificate of Merit – awarded to Amy Luft of District 2.

Membership – Becky Mueller, Department Chairman

11 – Extra-Gnome-inary Awards – awarded to Pewaukee Unit 71, District 1; Fort Atkinson Unit 166, District 2; Lone Rock Unit 383, District 3; Greendale Unit 416, District 4; Milwaukee Unit 448, District 5; Two Rivers Unit 165, District 6; Humbird Unit 320, District 7; Tigerton Unit 329, District 8; Deanna Farley, District 9; Ridgeland Unit 511, District 10; Fifield Unit 532, District 11.

National Security – Karen Degner, Department Chairman

4 – Certificates of Recognition – awarded to Port Washington Unit 82, District 2; Neenah Unit 33, District 6; New London Unit 263, District 8; Algoma Unit 236, District 9.

Past Presidents Parley – Bonnie Jakubczyk, Department Chairman

1 – Mentor of the Year – awarded to Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan of Waunakee Unit 360, District 3.

Poppy – Patti Westpfahl, Department Chairman

7 – Poppy Poster Awards – awarded to Easton Schurter, District 7 (Class I); Audra Ciolkosz, District 7 (Class II); Isabella Schroeder, District 9 (Class III); Sela Meeks, District 2 (Class IV); Jenna Nicholson, District 9 (Class V); Bethany Levy, District 2 (Class VI); Anna James, District 9 (Class VII).

Public Relations – Sandra Mack, Department Chairman

1 – Certificate of Appreciation – awarded to Crystal Shaw of Caledonia Unit 194, District 1.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation – Mike Rohan, Department Chairman

6 – 'Believe' Awards – awarded to Port Washington Unit 82, District 2; Grafton Unit 355, District 2; Richland Center Unit 13, District 3; Wautoma Unit 317, District 8; Tigerton Unit 239, District 8; Mercer Unit 424, District 11.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS REPORT

Diane Weggen
Department Chair
Committee: Gladys Beese, Jeannine Conratt,
Virginia Kodl, Pat Smith

The Distinguished Guests Committee had quite the year, thanks to the American Legion Family members who so graciously welcomed our Distinguished Guests!

National President Vickie Koutz flew from sunny Florida into below zero temperatures for the Midwinter Conference in Green Bay. She did share that she was not too excited about coming into the cold; however, she thoroughly enjoyed her visit: Friday night at Lambeau Field, the ALA workshop on Saturday morning, viewing the GNOME (Get New and Old Members Excited) racers on display, and the Hawaiian-themed party featuring a talent contest and Daddy D's band.

The band played and entertained their way into NP Vickie's heart. She invited them to be the band performing in Charlotte, NC at the National ALA States Dinner.

National Central Division Vice President Ann Rehbein of Iowa visited ALA Badger Girls State at the UW-Oshkosh campus. She flew in from Michigan ALA Girls State on Wednesday evening, arriving in time for the Flag Disposal Ceremony performed by the Oshkosh Post 70 Legionnaires. Next was the General Assembly featuring Past National Sergeant-at-Arms Roy Helms reading the book America's White Table. Blue Star Banners were presented to delegates who currently have a family member serving in the military.

Thursday (school pride day), NCDVP Rehbein donned her Iowa University duds to join del-

egates at the county meetings and state fair. The day ended with the inauguration of those elected to govern the State of Badger. Guest speakers included Governor Evers, Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Jill Karofsky, and Wisconsin Education Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly. Friday morning NCDVP Rehbein left to finish her week at Iowa ALA Girls State.

Past Department President Sue Vorwald (2008-2009) from Roberts was the Honored Guest at this year's ALA 102nd Department Convention. Her theme was "Oceans of Love to Our Veterans".

Honored PDP Vorwald began her long weekend with the DEC Luncheon, Past Presidents Parley business meeting, and PDP Dinner on Thursday. Friday at the opening of the convention, she participated in the processional. During the afternoon Recognition Program, she recognized officers and district presidents who served with her and shared a number of stories about her time as Department President. The program ended with all enjoying ice cream sundaes.

Saturday evening, Honored PDP Sue enjoyed visiting with friends, listening to the band, and dancing at the Legion Family event. Honored PDP Vorwald ended her special weekend by attending the Legion Family Memorial Service.

Having time with National President Vickie Koutz, National Central Division Vice President Ann Rehbein, and Honored PDP Sue Vorwald has been a privilege. It truly was a pleasure to serve on the Distinguished Guests Committee.

Thank you, President Linda, for the appointment and Past Distinguished Guests Chair Joyce Endres and ALA Executive Secretary Bonnie Dorniak for all the printed (and spoken) support.

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

What is the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) and what does it do? AEF is a national program that was established in 1969 to provide temporary emergency assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) who have endured a significant financial setback as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis.

The AEF was created with a bequest from the estate of ALA member Helen Colby Small of Burlington, Wisconsin. For the past five decades this fund has been helping Auxiliary members get back on their feet through the generous donations of current Auxiliary members. To be eligible, the applicant must be a member of the ALA for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years), cannot have received an AEF grant of the same type within the last 12 months, and is applying within six months of the disaster.

Eligible applicants may apply for a Temporary Assistance grant or Disaster Assistance grant when:

A financial crisis hits, leaving a member without resources to pay rent/mortgage and/or utilities, and no other source of aid is readily available.

A natural disaster or weather emergency leaves a member with a damaged or destroyed primary residence and/or significant emergency expenses (lodging, food, fuel, supplies, etc.), and no other source of aid is readily available.

Applications for assistance are available on the department website (www.amlegion-auxwi.org).

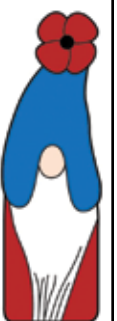
The Auxiliary Emergency Fund is maintained by the generous support of units and members throughout the country. Please consider a donation to the AEF this year.

THANK YOU! The G.N.O.M.s have rallied!

On behalf of Past Department President Linda Coppock and myself, thank you to all the districts, counties, units, and individuals who created 104 of the absolutely cutest Gnome baskets ever! We would also like to thank the American Legion Family for your support in raising \$5,880 through our raffle basket fundraiser at Department Convention – proving that we "BELIEVE" in the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Thank you everyone for your help. I couldn't have done it without you.

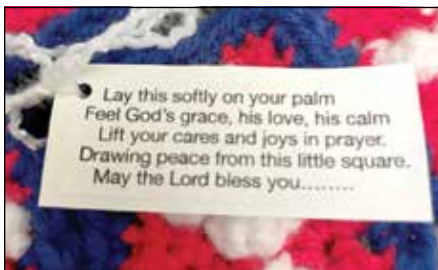
Lorrie Barber
2022-2023 Department Fundraising Chair



JACKSON UNIT 486: HONOR CORDS FOR GRADUATES



S/Sgt. Henry F. Gumm Unit 486 in Jackson gives the graduating students going into military service, special honor cords and a wooden cross with a crocheted prayer square.



ALA UNIT 89: COMMUNITY CELEBRATION



Members of ALA Unit 89 and the Madson-Empey Post 89 participated in the 70th Anniversary Million Penny Parade in Woodruff, WI. The parade and morning festivities honored Dr. Kate Pelham Newcomb and the museum dedicated to her memory. Pictured: ALA Unit 89 President Betty Grundy, youngest ALA member Emma Keelan (age 9), and oldest member/Sunshine Chairman Joyce Kaziak (age 102). Joyce was one of two Grand Marshals in the parade.

2023 - 2024 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, HOSPITAL REPS/DEPS	
OFFICERS	
President	Maggie Geiger
Senior Vice President	Becky Mueller
First Vice President	Sue Hembrook
Second Vice President	Amy Luft
Historian	Mary Petrie
Chaplain	Betty Stone
Nat'l Exec Committeeperson (NEC)	Bonnie Jakubczyk
Alternate NEC	Linda Coppock
Parliamentarian	Teresa Isensee
Executive Secretary-Treasurer	Bonnie Dorniak
Sergeant-at-Arms	Christine Johnsen
Asst Sergeant-at-Arms	Morgan Johnsen
DISTRICT PRESIDENTS	
1st District President	Zondra Morris
2nd District President	Sandy Mack
3rd District President	Karen Runk
4th District President	Kathy Grom
5th District President	Linda Bartell
6th District President	Diane Steinert
7th District President	Christina Petranovich
8th District President	Linda Tryczak
9th District President	Bonnie Blink
10th District President	Mary Townsend
11th District President	Claudia Osero
12th District President	Sandy Garlie
CHAIRMEN & COMMITTEE MEMBERS	
ALA in the Know	
Chairman	Patti Westpfahl
Vice Chairman	Diane Steinert
Americanism	
	Diane Burkhalter
ALA Badger Girls State	
Chairman	Danyelle Thompson
Vice Chairman	Jennifer Leahy
Executive Director	Delores Woolf
Asst Executive Director	Joanie Dickerson
Committee Member	Bethany Fredericks
Committee Member	Shirley Krier
Committee Member	SuAnn Pagel-Rast
Committee Member	Sheryl Polster
Committee Member	Theresa Schindler
Department President	Maggie Geiger
Senior Vice President	Becky Mueller
Executive Secretary-Treasurer	Bonnie Dorniak
Americanism Chair	Diane Burkhalter
WALASBA (Bowling Committee)	
Chairman/Tournament Director	Jenni Syftestad
Committee Member	Lisa Blom
Committee Member	Shannon Churchill
Committee Member	Linda Coppock
Committee Member	Linda Kostka
Committee Member	Sue Middlestead
Committee Member	Toni Moegenburg
Committee Member	Margie Schoonover
Department President	Maggie Geiger
Senior Vice President	Becky Mueller
Executive Secretary-Treasurer	Bonnie Dorniak
Children & Youth/Liaison-Child Welfare Fdn.	
	Margaret Larson
Community Service	
Constitution & Bylaws	
Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan	Sue Keyzers
Distinguished Guests	
Education/M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan	
	Diane Weggen
Finance	
Chairman	Diane Duscheck
Vice Chairman	Kathy Wollmer
Committee Member	Sue Keyzers
Office Policy Chairman	Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan
Alternate NEC	Linda Coppock
Fundraising	
	Crystal Shaw
Junior Activities	
Chairman	Laura Calteux
Vice Chairman	Char Kiesling
Leadership	
Chairman	Joyce Endres
Committee Member	Linda Coppock
Committee Member	Teresa Isensee
Legislative	
	Linda Coppock
Liaison to TAL Marketing & Communications	
Editor-Wisconsin Publication	Bonnie Dorniak
Membership	
Chairman	Sue Hembrook
Committee Member	Becky Mueller
Committee Member	Amy Luft
Unit Development & Revitalization	12 District Presidents
Music	
	Betty Stone
National Security	
	Karen Degner
Office Policy	
Chairman	Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan
Committee Member	Diana Sirovina
Committee Member	Virginia Kodl
Past Pres. Parley/Cavalcade of Memories Poppy	
	Char Kiesling
	Kay Grosskopf
Public Relations	
Chairman	Bob Shappell
Committee Member	Crystal Shaw
Standing Rules	
	Diane Duscheck
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R)	
VA&R Chairman	Bonnie Jakubczyk
Director of Hospital Volunteers	Sue Hembrook
Christmas Gift Shop Supervisor	Diane Sirovina
Christmas Gift Shop Assistant	Linda Bartell
Homeless Women Veterans Grant Chairman	Pat Smith
Service to Veterans Chairman	Linda Kostka
HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVES & DEPUTIES	
Dayton Care Center - Kenosha	
Representative	Sue Hembrook
Assistant	Crystal Shaw
Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital - Madison	
Representative	Sheila Frye
Deputy	Noreen Schmidt
VA Great Lakes Health Care System - Tomah	
Representative	Helene Stein
Deputy	Patricia Flanders
Zablocki VAMC - Milwaukee	
Representative	Bonnie Jakubczyk
Deputy	Sue Hembrook
Deputy	Sandra Kaebisch
Deputy	Sue Middlestead
Wisconsin Veterans Home - Chippewa Falls	
Representative	Nancy Randen
Deputy	Teresa Steinke
Wisconsin Veterans Home - King	
Representative	Nancy Neuroth
Deputy	Alice Bentley
Deputy	Pat Daniels
Deputy	Dawn Lind
Wisconsin Veterans Home - Union Grove	
Representative	Mary Ellen Crandall
Deputy	Kathie Wilhelm
Oscar G Johnson USVAMC - Iron Mountain, MI	
Associate Representative	Anna Wender
Associate Deputy	Barbara VanBoxtel
Minneapolis VA Health Care System - Minneapolis, MN	
Associate Representative	Jeanne Williams
Associate Deputy	Karen Taylor

UNIT 511 RHINELANDER: YOUTH GOOD DEED AWARD

Willard L. Hinzman ALA Unit 511 in Ridgeland presented National Good Deed Awards to Junior members Alyson and Camryn Comstock.

As part of their high school project for Family Career Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Alyson and Camryn partnered with Soldiers' Angels to collect needed items. They sought guidance from ALA President Becky Steffe and collaborated with the PF Lions and Auxiliary members. They strategically placed donation boxes, identified strategies and marketing tools, and engaged the public. They collected enough donations to fill a vehicle and U-Haul! They met with representatives from Soldiers' Angels and delivered almost 2,000 items which will be distributed to military families and deployed servicemen



and women. When Alyson and Camryn presented their project at the Wisconsin State FCCLA competition, they won and went on to compete at the national level.

Pictured (l-r): Becky Steffe, President ALA Unit 511; Camryn Comstock; Mary Townsend, 10th District President; Alyson Comstock; Mary Peterson, County President.

EDUCATION / M. LOUISE WILSON EDUCATIONAL LOAN FUND

Diane Weggen
Department Chair

The new school year signifies a fresh start or a new beginning: a time to make changes or renew energies/enthusiasm with what has been done in the past. With the Education Program year completed and a new one beginning, ALA units have the opportunity to begin anew: add a new program or improve on past performance.

Considered the “Father of our Constitution”, James Madison stated, “a popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy.” Just as the founding fathers For God and Country, the American Legion Family understands that education is vital for the success of a democracy.

The purpose of the ALA Education Program is to promote quality education for all children and adults through literacy programs, scholarships, and classroom activities and opportunities.

Units are encouraged to work with Posts, Squadrons and Riders supporting and/or par-

ticipating in the following activities: Veterans in Community Schools, Give 10 to Education, American Education Week (11/13 -11/17/2023), Teacher Appreciation Week (5/8 – 5/12/2024), Assist Military Children, Veterans Pursuing Education and ALA Scholarships.

The American Legion joined with the National Education Association to establish and promote American Education Week because an educated populace is necessary for national security. Work with the Legion Family to thank all who have roles in educating the nation’s youth, including teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Greater success is achieved by working with school personnel. Make an appointment to visit with the superintendent, principal or a teacher to share the educational activities of the ALA.

Invite a Legionnaire to be the unit’s Veteran in the classroom sharing his or her experiences/stories with students. Talking with a Veteran makes it personal. When students learn how Veterans served and problems experienced, they better understand why Veterans deserve to

be honored and thanked and learn what Veterans did to protect America’s freedoms.

Give 10 to Education may be actions or donations of items in sets of ten: ten visits to read to a class or giving the teacher ten books to share with students. Necessary classroom supplies and volunteering (tutoring, assisting, etc.) are welcomed throughout the school year.

ALA units should seek out military families who may need assistance. Due to moves or negative experiences, military families may need help or just some friendly faces.

Provide Legion Family scholarship information to members, schools and the community. Scholarships are given to promote and support education beyond high school, with special emphasis on military children, Veterans and service members.

The M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan Fund also promotes the ALA mission and is funded by donations. Female Auxiliary members can apply for interest-free loans to further their education at a technical, two or four-year college/university.

Applicants must:

Be a resident of Wisconsin and a current female member of the ALA.

Submit a copy of the DD214 document of the Veteran who provided eligibility.

Send a transcript of high school grades and three letters of recommendation.

Co-sign the promissory note along with a responsible adult.

Have the application approved by the Education Chairman.

Correspond on a regular basis through email.

Begin repayment of loan six months after graduating or ceasing to be a full-time academic student.

If approved, the applicant can borrow up to \$800 per year for five years, for a total of \$4,000 by sending a copy of satisfactory college grades and maintaining membership in the ALA.

This program depends on Legion Family donations and ALA applicants honoring their responsibility to repay their loans.

For God and Country, the ALA Education Program supports Veterans, military, their families and communities.



**DEPARTMENT OF
WISCONSIN FALL JUNIOR
CONFERENCE**

Turning Rivers Youth Camp
N885 Youth Camp Rd.
Campbellsport 53010



OCTOBER 21-22, 2023 - 1pm Saturday til 2pm Sunday

Join us at Camp Hometown Heroes for our Fall Conference and learn about the camp, and what it does for military children, our American Legion Auxiliary, and what you can do for our Veterans, and military. There will be hiking, crafts (lots!), outdoor cooking, and learning about wilderness survival. Bring your sleeping bag and pillow for a fun weekend with friends!

If you have any questions, please call Laura Calteux at 414-379-2943.

2023 JUNIOR AUXILIARY FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
Reservation needs to be in by October 7, 2023

You will get a confirmation of your reservation with additional information.

Form submitted by (please print clearly):

Name: _____ District #: _____ Unit #: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

(PRINT CLEARLY)

NAME / UNIT #	FIRST TIME ATTENDEE? (YES/NO)	REGISTRATION (\$10.00)	Junior Member	Senior Member	Sons of the American Legion
GRAND TOTALS:		\$			

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Please send reservation form with check payable to American Legion Auxiliary to: Laura Calteux, 7012 W. Squire Ave., Greenfield, WI 53220

BADGER GIRLS STATE

Danyelle Thompson
Department Chair
alabgs.chairman@gmail.com

The 2023 session of American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State (ALABGS) took place from June 18-23 at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Over 500 delegates attended and spent the week learning about all levels of state government, legislation, and civic engagement. The delegates debated real world topics, campaigned for various offices,

and had fun in the process. Some highlights of the week included a flag disposal ceremony conducted by Oshkosh American Legion Post 70, a Talent Show, Hearings on Bills, and a College and Career Fair. The week culminated with the Inaugural Ceremony, where State Supreme Court Justice Jill Karofsky performed the oath of offices, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Jill Underly gave greetings, and Governor Tony Evers spoke about civic responsibility and the future of women in Wisconsin.



Fifty-seven (57) counselors gave up their week to help make the program a success. I want to thank everyone who gave up even one night of their summer to help put the program on – from those who were with the delegates 24/7, to those who were in the office counting thousands and thousands of pennies, your contributions were noticed and appreciated.

I hope the delegates returned to your units with stories of the things they learned and the fun they had. I also hope they will talk about the program to the upcoming high school juniors so more and more young women in Wisconsin realize what a fantastic program ALABGS is. (Photo Credit: Alex Koon, UW-Oshkosh Staff)



Karl Stuvengen
Department
Commander

★ DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ★

First of all, I want to thank you for your support in electing me your Department Commander. I will do everything in my power to justify your confidence in making that choice, and I look forward to serving you in any way that I can.

I think we have assembled an awesome team of officers and committees at the Department level. Each is here to help you in any way we can. I am a firm believer in the chain of command, and I encourage you to use it any time you have questions or concerns about The American Legion. Involvement is the key. Often times asking your County Commander questions can lead to faster responses, and can quickly get you back on track. Remember, the more you keep your County and District officers in the loop, the better they will be able to assist you in carrying out the mission.

In the coming year, I look forward to meeting Legionnaires from around our great state and learning about all of the great things you are doing.

So, who is this new Department Commander?

My name is Karl Stuvengen (Stoov engen (hard G, accent on the first syllable)). I was born in California and raised in Wisconsin. I am the son of two WWII Veterans, Chuck and Bobbe Stuvengen, who many of you may remember as very active Legionnaires. I graduated from high school in Orfordville, and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. I got out of the Navy in 1982 and went to college on the GI Bill. I worked in several different industries until settling on electrical contracting. After 9/11, I reenlisted in the Navy Reserve. I was recalled to active duty 3 times in the 2000s, going to Japan, Iraq and Kuwait. I retired in 2019 as a Senior Chief Electrician's Mate (E-8). I am a PUFL member of Wells – Davis – Young – Neal Post 209 in Orfordville. I am the third Department officer from my Post (PNH/PDH Bobbe Stuvengen, PDVC Jim Dallman). I have been active in The American Legion for many years at all levels of the organization. I am a 2018 graduate of the National Legion College. I retired from my civilian job as Director of Public Works in Orfordville in 2019. My wife Debi and I have 7 children and 5 grandchildren.



Allen Watry
SAL Detachment
Commander

★ SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER ★

It is an honor to be elected the Detachment Commander of the Wisconsin Sons of The American Legion. I joined the SAL 10 years ago so I could ride in parades with my father (the late Charles Watry) as a Legion Rider. I had no thought of becoming a Detachment Commander. But after a short time I quickly realized why my father and mother (Kathy Watry) were so involved with the Legion Family, which naturally led me to get more involved.

And 10 years later, I now have a new cover to wear. Before sharing our plans for 2023-2024, I need to acknowledge the success the Detachment has achieved under our last 3 Commanders. These successes include:

- Consistently growing membership. Our squadron count has increased 10% and Membership increased by almost 19%.
- Executing the Josh/ALF transition. We were the only Detachment to continue forward with a new program when GI Josh was shut down. Now other Detachments want to follow our lead.
- Successfully hosting the 2022 National Convention, which was also our 50th National Convention.

- Growing Freezing for a Reason to support Homeless Veterans and Veterans in Stress.

All this success means the bar is set quite high for us for 2023-2034, but I am certain we are up to the challenge. So what will our focus be? What will success look like for 2023-2024? Here are a couple thoughts:

- Staying focused on what we are already doing well. We will continue to grow our membership, turn ALF into a National Program, and continue to expand Freezing for a Reason.
- Growing the visibility of the Sons of the American Legion in Wisconsin. We will strengthen our connections inside and outside of the Legion Family. We will be visible in our communities and the Legion Family. And we will continue to be Proud of what we do!!
- Supporting those in need in our communities as a part of the Be The One Campaign.

Before I close my first article, I would like to thank the Legion Family for your support of the Sons of The American Legion. We could not do all we are doing without the support from the Legion, the Auxiliary, and the Riders.

And thank you to all Veterans. Thank you for service and dedication to our great nation.



Maggie Geiger
Department
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As American Legion Auxiliary members, we tend to forget how important our membership and contributions are to our Veterans, military, their families, children and youth, and our communities.

I hope all of you understand and realize how important you, your membership, hours of volunteering, mentoring and kindness shown to others has helped keep our organization alive and well for 105 years!

Enhancing the Lives of our Veterans, Military and Their Families, One Day at a Time, is my theme this year. We do this and have been, by working our ALA programs!

Respecting one another, kind words and actions, accepting new ideas, mentoring, stepping up into leadership roles, remembering all members, whether it is with a call or visit, will help make all of us have stronger friendships, and units.

Units throughout the state have done so much and continue to work hard to support all the American Legion Auxiliary programs. Find a program or event that you individually enjoy, don't be afraid to ask your unit to try something new. If you don't try, how will you know if it could have been a success?

I can tell you from personal experiences, not all ideas I've come up with were a home run, but the support my unit gave me has been priceless and so appreciated. Some events you've tried might not have worked out for your unit, but another unit might adopt the idea and it turns out great! Sharing ideas with other units, counties and districts will help us all enhance the lives of our heroes.

TAL Commander Karl Stuvengen and SAL Commander Allen Watry and I agree that we need to continue educating and promoting all our members about all TAL programs. Supporting each other with our endeavors, getting our names out into our communities, becoming a family that works together for our core principles – justice, freedom and democracy – will help grow our organizations.

Thank you all for your support. I am honored to be your 2023-2024 ALA President. Let's go out and be excited and have fun being an ALA member!



Brad Heller
Asst. State Director
American Legion
Riders Association

★ LEGION RIDERS ★

Here we are, the 104th Convention in the rearview mirror and summer quickly drawing to a close. I hope everyone who attended Convention enjoyed the great time of fellowship and camaraderie. Good luck to all the new officers who've assumed various positions within the Legion Family. My name is Brad Heller and while I serve in many roles, I'm proudly writing to you as the Assistant Director for the American Legion Riders Association of Wisconsin. I'm looking forward to the new term in this position, working with and meeting you down the road.

The Riders have had quite the busy summer so far with Districts participating in a host of different parades, escorts, honor flights, fundraisers, rides, and other community events. We were fortunate enough to hold our quarterly meeting at Convention. I'm sure most recognized us on Saturday at Convention, as we proudly wore our vests and showed we are a part of the Legion Family! Also, on Wednesday at Convention we completed the Back to Basics Tour state ride, in support of Camp American Legion at Bull Falls Harley-Davidson. It was a great culmination to a successful ride and grand start to Convention. For all those who helped make the ride a success, I want to sincerely thank you for your efforts. It takes a village... and without your support the great things we accomplished would not have been possible. If you or your post are interested in being involved in next year's ride please feel free to reach out to Director Corey Doehrmann or myself for more information.

While summer's end is drawing near, the Riders are just as busy as ever keeping the mission first and supporting Legion programs. As Director Doehrmann stated in the June Badger Legionnaire we are here to assist if your post/detachment/unit is in need of assistance. As an association we look forward to helping our Legion Family and reveling in everyone's success. It is my hope that these opportunities grow into strong partnerships that further the Legion's missions and strengthen our organization. The Riders are a great resource that has yet to be tapped in many instances. If there is any need of the Riders please reach out. We will make every effort to support you and hopefully in turn, you are just as eager to support us. We are stronger when we work towards common goals. Our Veterans, our children, our country, and our communities are the mission. Let us always be mindful of this as we work in our memberships and within our organization.

"Leadership, Accountability, Mission First!" Be The ONE, and be LEGION STRONG. Brad Heller's email address is brheller65@gmail.com.

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