



WISCONSIN



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The official publication of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

www.amlegionauxwi.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



LAURA CALTEUX
Department
President

How are you energizing our programs? I am putting a challenge out to all of our units. Show me how you are working one program and furthering the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary and we will highlight your unit and program in the Wisconsin! I want this to be an event that involves the Legion Family, is something that you haven't done before and shows our communities who we are, what we do and why we matter.

So start planning your event, big or small, write a couple of paragraphs detailing the event after it happens, get some pictures and send the information to my attention at: Laura Calteux, 7012 West Squire Avenue, Greenfield, WI 53220. Please be sure to include your contact information too. I want to see all of the wonderful things that we are doing to be Sparks for Our Veterans.

This month's highlighted program is ALA Badger Girls State. Now is the time to contact your schools, letting them know that you will be sponsoring a delegate and that you need to be part of the selection process. It is very important that the girl

chosen understands what our conference is about and what will be expected of her, so that she can decide if she is the right person to attend. Orientations are held across the state so that the girls and their parents can get all of the information they need and can have their questions answered. Encourage your delegates to attend one!

When our delegates attend ALA Badger Girls State, they will be setting up the mythical State of Badger. They will be electing city, county and state officers and carrying out the responsibilities in their respective positions and as a responsible citizen. As they go through

the week, the delegates will be learning about the American Legion Auxiliary, patriotism, Americanism, leadership, our government and many issues concerning our country today.

The registration fee of \$250 per delegate covers everything the citizen needs for the week at UW-Oshkosh – food, lodging and education. Make sure that you have your reservation fee sent in by the deadline, there are no exceptions to this deadline on January 29, 2016. The conference is run by the American Legion Auxiliary, with an all-

volunteer team of women dedicated to making this program one the Department of Wisconsin can be proud of. Some of these volunteers take a week of vacation to attend!

This is just a little information about one of our great programs. Please don't hesitate to contact our chairmen or myself if you have any questions about our programs. We are here to help and want to make sure that you are successful in everything that you do!

God Bless America and Be the Spark for Our Veterans!

MEMBERSHIP

Bonnie Jakubczyk, Chairman
Ph: (414) 764-6752
Email: bon6862@yahoo.com

Congratulations to Cassville Unit 352 on reaching 100%!

In early September, National sent out an email renewal notice to all those who have an email address in the national database, informing them that they could renew their dues online. This was a generic email and many may have overlooked it or it may have gone into their spam folder. These members did not receive a renewal notice in the US mail so this would be a good time for Units to contact them telling them about the early renewal email and letting them know how they can pay their dues (either

online or mail). Personal contact is always a positive thing to do and a friendly reminder will help you collect those dues.

Keeping the Promise:

- October – I promise to explore new ways of signing up members.

Promise Date: Columbus Day, October 12, 2015 – 35 %.

- November – I promise to thank a Veteran for their service to our country.

Promise Date: Veterans Day November 11th – 45%.

Amy Luft provided the following and be sure to check her article in the Unit mailing:

"This year's Fall Forum was a huge success! It was great to hear and learn about the differ-

ent Auxiliary programs, catch-up with old friends, and make new ones. The American Legion Auxiliary Strategic Plan of obtaining one million members by 2019 is in full force. Working our Auxiliary programs is the best way to help us obtain that goal. Of course, membership plays a huge part. Your Membership Team shared many initiatives during Fall Forum. Make sure to check the department website (www.amlegionauxwi.org/Membership.htm) for a complete listing." Be the Spark for our Veterans!

Your Membership Team:
Bonnie Jakubczyk, Amy Luft,
Penny Joren, Meghan Helms,
Andrea Stoltz

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICES

It has come to our attention that some members did not receive their membership renewal notice. Notices were sent by National Headquarters in September to members whose 2016 dues had not been processed as of August 7, 2015. Members with a valid email address on record were sent the renewal notice via email. Members without

a valid email address on record were sent a paper renewal notice via US mail. If your email or mailing address has changed in the past few months, please notify your unit so the information can be corrected.

Members do not need a renewal notice to pay their dues. You can pay online or directly to your unit. If you don't know to whom or where to mail your

dues, please call Department Headquarters (608-745-0124) and we will provide this information.

ALL members whose 2016 dues are not received and processed by Department Headquarters by early December 2015 will receive a second renewal notice in the US mail. Please don't delay – pay your dues today. Thank you!

CREATE A SPARK MEMBERSHIP IS BOOMING



Thank You to Our Veterans

HAPPY VETERANS DAY 11.11.15

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Diane Weggen
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Email: dsweggen@centurytel.net

God asks us to demonstrate our faith and love by our actions. James 2:14, "My brothers, what good is it to profess faith without practicing it?... 26, Be assured, then, that faith without works is as dead as a body without breath."

I hope all of you had an opportunity to do something special for someone on "Make a Difference Day", October 24. If you were unable to "Make a Difference" on that day, any day will do. "National Family Volunteer Day" is Saturday, November 21. Why not make that an "American Legion Family Volunteer Day"?

We Serve for More

In God's name we serve Veterans, their families and their communities.

We serve by building membership – more caring volunteers.

We serve by working the programs – more ways to make a difference.

We serve by sharing our talents – more lives touched by generous hearts.

Through service comes peace and happiness. God bless us as we work to serve with goodwill, for in God's name we serve Veterans, their families and their communities. Amen

This is an Irish folk song by Susan G. Wentz that seems to promote the need for love and faith to be shown in actions.

Make Us True Servants,

Text, 1987, World Library Publications
Make us true servants for all those in need,

Filled with compassion in thought, word and deed;

Loving our neighbor, whatever the cost, Feeding the hungry and finding the lost.

Lord, make us prophets to cry out the way,

Telling the nations of mercy's new day.

Let us break barriers of hatred and scorn,

Speaking of hope to all people forlorn.

Making a positive difference in the lives of others is what God asks from each of us. May you find fulfillment in service to others.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone for your messages, memories and memorials since my husband Bob died. Please know how comforting it is to be in your thoughts and prayers. The American Legion Family ties are closer than many biological family ties and appreciated accordingly. Bob loved the American Legion Auxiliary members for two generations because of me and his mother, Nell, and I feel the same. You are all very dear to me. May God's angels watch over us as we serve our veterans.

Loretta Shellman

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

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

Do you celebrate Veterans Day or is it just a paid holiday from work? Do you use this special day to remember the person who was willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice so you could be a proud member of the American Legion Auxiliary? Please make time to honor all the veterans who served – years ago or in the present day. Take time for a moment of silence and pay tribute to those who have passed or pray for the safety of our men and women who are currently serving. And when you see a veteran, tell him or her thank you!

Sometimes it seems like we spend more time on membership than we do on working the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary: **to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families.** Always remember that what we do makes a difference – even if it makes a difference to just one person or family. President Laura's theme, 'Energize our Programs – Be a Spark for our Veterans' reminds us to focus on what really matters. By working our Auxiliary programs,

and promoting our activities within the community, we may attract the attention of others who believe in what we do and they may join so they can get involved too. If you showcase the value of our programs, membership will grow naturally.

How can you promote your activities? If your unit sponsors a Veterans Day program, advertise it on the local radio station and invite the general public to attend. If you collect tattered flags to dispose of them properly, post notices at the library, grocery store, or community center and inform people where they can drop off their flags. Adopt a family and ask churches to include a notice in their bulletin or newsletter requesting donations of food or gifts for the holidays. If you want to send care packages to a military unit but don't know where to send them, put an article in the newspaper asking your neighbors if they have a loved one serving in the military who would be willing to accept and distribute donations to their deployed unit members. Donate leftover poppies to the local grade school and hold a poppy decorating contest – then promote the winning entries in the newspaper explaining the significance of the poppy. In every newspaper article, include contact information for the Unit President so people can follow-up if they

want to get involved.

How do you involve older members who aren't as active as they used to be? Ask them to make potato salad for the community-wide Memorial Day celebration. Encourage them to write notes to members who are sick or hospitalized or call members who need a gentle reminder to pay their dues. Some women might like to knit or sew lap blankets – put an ad in the local paper and ask for donations of yarn and fabric to keep them well supplied.

What about young, working mothers who don't have time to attend meetings or events? Ask them to donate a dozen cookies to the unit Christmas party or see if they would be willing to work with their kids to place flags on veterans' gravesites for Memorial Day.

When people feel good about a cause, they often join the organization so they can get involved – which is a lot easier than knocking on doors to recruit members! But don't forget, even if you "just pay your dues," it helps our veterans. The more members who belong to the American Legion Auxiliary, the louder our voice can be to influence legislation affecting our veterans, the military and their families. So please...pay your dues today if you haven't already done so. And for those who have, THANK YOU.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Mary Petrie, Department Chairman
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Email: mmrtpetrie@charter.net

What hats do you wear? Daughter, friend, caretaker, mentor, volunteer... Women have always worn a variety of hats and it's no different in the Auxiliary! Choose a hat and wear it well, all while benefiting our Veterans!

Grassroots is a word frequently heard. This definition sums it up...People drawn together by something they have in common, having both personal and community consequences, granting themselves the authority to solve the problem they are facing or create the future they desire.

What can hats and grassroots possibly have in common?

Step back in time...the year, 1919. Women, fashionable hats and all, were left on the homefront while their men were going off to war. Those concerned women embraced the day-to-day responsibilities of life and soon became aware of the plight of fatherless families and the needs of returning Veterans, vowing to

continue their supportive role.

With that empowering dedication, in less than a year, 1,342 Units of the Women's Auxiliary to The American Legion organized in more than 45 states. WOW! Nearly a century later, here we are, continuing to champion for our Veterans and military!

Styles have changed, but the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary remains constant, as does that very devotion that sparked this organization!

Those working directly with our Veterans in VA Centers and Clinics are on the frontline, the face of the American Legion Auxiliary, providing that first impression with a shared smile, an offered hand, or a kind word; the women those Veterans will identify with our organization.

In Service to Veterans, crafty members create handmade afghans and quilts, wrapping our Veterans in the warmth of the American Legion Auxiliary. Whether providing snuggly baby blankets and layette items for new moms, gathering household goodies for Buddy Baskets,

baking for the Veteran next door or visiting Veterans, you can't choose a wrong hat. You are making a difference!

Attendees at the 2015 Fall Informational Forum received a VA&R song sung to Heigh Ho, Heigh Ho. Have fun at your meetings!

We are the spark for our Veterans! Let's make Wisconsin a 100% reporting state. Remember, this goes for all programs. If you are not working it, simply saying so is reporting. Then, let's break last year's high records of 74 new volunteers and 39,918.75 hours! Report Deadline: December 15th.

As with Membership...Renew, Recruit, Rejoin! Renew your volunteer commitment to the VA&R program; Recruit others to serve our Veterans and military; Rejoin if you've been away from the program.

It only takes a spark to light a member's enthusiasm, which ignites another member to action, and before you know it, an ALA wildfire has spread! Thank you for serving our Veterans!

EDUCATION

Kelli Mades, Department Chairman
Ph: (608) 385-6693
Email: kelli_mades@yahoo.com

American Education Week is November 16-20, 2015. This is a time to say 'thank you' and to show our appreciation to those who work with our children on a daily basis. To get you started, here are a few suggestions on ways to recognize them.

• Be sure to thank all school personnel including bus drivers, teachers, principals, office staff, custodians, nurses, caf-

eteria workers, hall monitors and aides.

• There is a sample 'thank you' card at www.ALAforVeterans.org/Programs/Education that you can print and distribute



to any school personnel.

• Use your social media to spread the word and encourage your members to take part by baking goodies.

• Volunteer your time at the schools.
• Promote all the American Legion Auxiliary scholarship opportunities that we have to offer. It's never too early to provide the schools and guidance counselors with applications including instructions for our scholarships for this administrative year.



MISSION: In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

DIANE DUSCHECK TAKES A STEP CLOSER



Diane Duscheck was appointed the 2015-2016 National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman, which takes her a step closer to serving as the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) National President.

Over the next two years, Diane will take two more big steps forward. In 2016, Diane will run for election as our National Vice President. In 2017 at Reno, Diane will run for election as our 2017-2018 National President. **How exciting is that?**

Diane appreciates the generous donations you and the entire Legion Family have made and will continue to make as Team Duscheck holds fundraisers through

Department Convention 2017.

Team Duscheck and Team Wisconsin will jointly hold a '600 Cash Prize Raffle' at the 2016 American Legion Midwinter Conference at Ho-Chunk and a 'Christmas Boutique-Shop until you Drop' fundraiser during the 2016 Department Convention in Middleton. Diane Duscheck's red pens will be available for purchase. We have chances to win stained glass pieces, personally made by Diane. Two winners will be drawn at the 2016 Department Convention.

I am often asked the question: "Since the American Legion Auxiliary cannot campaign for office, how will the National Candidate

Funds be used?"

Wisconsin ALA members see how diligently Diane works to advocate for the ALA mission. However, members across the nation may not realize Diane's dedication or her passion to make her father proud as she continues to serve his fellow veterans every day.

National Candidate funds are used to sponsor two Meet and Greet Receptions held at the Washington DC Conference. Each reception provides a perfect opportunity for attendees to mingle, meet and talk with Diane face to face.

Funds will also be used by Wisconsin when we host Di-

ane's 2017 National President's Homecoming. Members across Wisconsin and the nation will be invited to welcome Diane home as the newly elected 2017-18 National President. Funds are also used for other events and obligations required of a candidate for National President.

All unused Team Duscheck National Candidate funds are returned to the ALA Department of Wisconsin National Candidate Fund for use by future Wisconsin ALA members who aspire to become a national officer.

If you have questions or are interested in holding a fundraiser, please e-mail me at ljendres@charter.net. When you have funds

to donate, make your check payable to the National Candidate's Fund and mail to: Diana Sirovina, Team Duscheck Treasurer, 9428 W Eden Place, Milwaukee, WI 53228.

Thank you once again for your strong support for Diane Duscheck as she diligently serves the ALA mission and takes steps forward to be elected as American Legion Auxiliary National President.

In service not self, for God and Country.

– Joyce E. Endres
Chairman

FALL FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

The last Fall Informational Forum was held in Eau Claire on September 18-19, 2015. For those who were unable to attend, you missed some great learning opportunities and activities. Almost 200 members and more than 30 junior members, also known as Wizards in Training, attended the Forum.



'Junior Wizards' learned about Auxiliary programs and cast spells to help recruit new members in Wisconsin.



American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State Chairman Diane Kranig and Executive Director Delores Woolf (left photo). Lynda is also pictured with members of eUnit 352 (left to right): Mariah Pursley, Danyelle Thompson, Bridget Cooke, and Bethany Fredericks – the first unit to reach 100% for the 2016 membership year!



Central Division National Vice President Lynda Lancaster of West Virginia attended Fall Forum. She is pictured with



SPECIAL THANKS to Linda Coppock, Terry Woolf and Tom Petrie for helping with registration and making this event a successful one!

In the future, Regional Fall Conferences will replace the traditional Fall Forum to encourage more members to attend. Conferences will be held in various locations around the state. Details are still being worked out, so watch for information in 2016.

CALENDAR FUNDRAISER WINNERS

SEPTEMBER 2015

1	15.00	25148	Lucille Davis	Mondovi
2	15.00	25664	Gene Jensen	Neillsville
3	15.00	32566	Ann Barker	Rice Lake
4	15.00	60615	Margaret Anich	Mukwonago
5	15.00	58201	Janet Beuthin	Green Lake
6	25.00	42676	Deanna O'Connell	Mazomanie
7	500.00	34413	Mary Shawley	Melrose
8	15.00	57634	Mary Jane Premo	Columbus
9	15.00	65786	JoAnn Leinweber	St. Francis
10	15.00	69754	Olivia Weyers	Chicago IL
11	15.00	34078	Nancy Caya	River Falls
12	15.00	49647	Angeline Butalla	Big Bend
13	25.00	53755	Angeline Bartel	Neenah
14	15.00	63396	Tonya Runyard	Whitewater
15	15.00	32737	Carol Johnson	Rice Lake
16	15.00	55084	Peggy Wiest	Cassville
17	15.00	52593	Melody Blacklock	Lake Havasu City AZ
18	15.00	29126	Edee Zuleger	Marathon
19	15.00	33452	Paisley Ann Larson	Plainfield
20	25.00	40366	Spenser & Ceilee Rodenkirch	Kewaskum
21	15.00	34967	Joann Harter	La Crosse
22	15.00	49975	Tony & Cindy Carter	Gulfport FL
23	15.00	62194	Rachel Gomez	Milwaukee
24	15.00	30426	Janice Pohella	Tomah
25	15.00	54513	Crawford Cty Council	Prairie du Chien
26	15.00	64749	Rosemary Koeller	Bonduel
27	25.00	47815	Kathryn Peck	Menomonee Falls
28	15.00	39468	Carole Ohnemus	Fall Creek
29	15.00	69996	Arlene Dahl	Blair
30	15.00	43455	Charlene Pulham	Sun Prairie

Congratulations!



Maggie Geiger and Gail Andree-Kjell celebrate their winning of the cash raffle at Fall Forum

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY Five-Year Centennial Strategic Plan

Wisconsin's Centennial Strategic Plan At-A-Glance

Team Structure:

- Implementation Team
- Goal Champions
- Strategy Captains
- Initiative Team Members

Five goals:

5. With The American Legion, raise awareness to build brand loyalty
4. Strengthen department and units
3. Develop leadership at ALL levels
2. Create an internal culture of goodwill...when we reach these four goals, we will...
1. **Attain a million members**

19 Strategies and 54 Initiatives (strategic (long term) and tactical (short term) actions steps) were developed by 62 Wisconsin Strategic Planning Team members.

Phase one began in 2014 and was Completed in July 2015. A report was provided at The De-

American Legion Auxiliary 2014-2019 Centennial Plan	
Goal 1	Attain a Million Members
Goal 2	Create an Internal Culture of Goodwill
Goal 3	Develop Leadership at All Levels
Goal 4	Strengthen Departments and Units
Goal 5	With The American Legion, Raise Awareness to Build Brand Loyalty

partment Convention. Wisconsin received \$500 from the National organization because of the work of the Strategic Planning Team.

Transition July – October 2015

- Strategic Planning Committee Team Restructure
- American Legion Auxiliary Organizational Effectiveness Assessment results were shared at National Convention
- Team will review all 54 initiatives to eliminate duplication or overlap and define dependencies. Our goal is to consolidate initiatives, prioritize

remaining goals, and align with available resources

Phase 2 begins November 2015

- Strategy teams will be asked to review the ALA Organizational Effectiveness Assessment recommendations, determine how these recommendations impact current/future strategies and initiatives and report back to the implementation team with their ideas for moving forward
- Teams will work together to begin action steps to implement approved realigned initiatives



Program Plan of Actions Incorporate Strategic Planning Goals

“Energize our Programs – Be the Spark for our Veterans”
ties directly into the Strategic Plan

To learn more about how the American Legion Auxiliary programs and the Wisconsin Strategic Plan interrelate, review the 2015-2016 ALA Program Plans of Action that were provided at the Fall Informational Forum. They are also posted on the Department website at: www.amlegionauxwi.org.

The following illustrates which Strategic Planning goals impact each program. If you see something you would change, let me know!

- **Americanism:** Responsible citizenship (Goals 5, 1)

- **American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State:** Leadership, Citizenship, Goodwill (Goals 3, 5, 2, 1)
- **Children & Youth:** Protect, care for, support (Goals 5, 2, 1)
- **Junior Activities:** Engage positive productive members to carry on its mission for life (Goals 2, 1, 3)
- **Leadership:** Develop leadership at all levels (Goal 3)
- **Membership:** Live by our values/attract, engage, retain a diverse, active membership (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- **Poppy:** Educate citizens about

- **Public Relations:** Promote the ALA brand (Goal 5)
- **VA&R:** VA Volunteers and leaders enhance the lives of veterans (Goal 3)

As we implement initiatives through defined action steps, the Department of Wisconsin will move the American Legion Auxiliary toward a strong future and add a SPARK OF JOY for the people we serve and our members.

Joyce E. Endres, Chairman
Ph: (608) 221-1763
Email: ljendres@charter.net

..... DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov 14, 2015	7th District Fall Workshop West Salem, WI	Apr 23, 2016	1st District Spring Conference Walworth County
Jan 9, 2016	Chili Dump and Blanket Making for Zablocki VAMC Post 288, Cedarburg, WI	Apr 23, 2016	3rd District Spring Conference Waunakee, WI
(open to all Auxiliary members and the public)		Apr 23, 2016	9th District Spring Conference Jack LaMar Community Pavilion, Elcho, WI
Jan 16, 2016	Joint Legion Family Testimonial HoChunk Casino, Baraboo, WI	Apr 30, 2016	2nd District Spring Conference West Bend, WI
Mar 19, 2016	7th District Spring Conference Sparta, WI	May 7, 2016	4th District Spring Conference Location To be Determined
Apr 2-3, 2016		June 19-24, 2016	ALA Badger Girls State UW-Oshkosh
Apr 9-10, 2016	WALA State Bowling Tournament Wally's Seymour Bowl Seymour, WI	Jul 14-17, 2016	2016 Department Convention Madison Marriott West, Middleton, WI
Apr 16, 2016	6th District Spring Conference Waupun, WI	Aug 26-Sep 01, 2016	2016 National Convention Cincinnati, OH
Apr 22-24, 2016	10th District Spring Conference Chetek, WI		

Subject to change

GREAT BENEFITS WHEN VOLUNTEERING

Andrea Page
Director of Hospital Volunteers
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Fall Informational Forum certainly instilled in me the reasons that we must continue with volunteering at our VA hospitals and Veterans Homes throughout the area. The many wonderful stories our volunteers tell are amazing and heartwarming. They understand the importance of their duties at all of the facilities. A special thanks to these very important people!

Would you consider being a hospital volunteer? Inside our Department Red Book are the names and contact information for each of our representa-

tives at the VA Hospitals. They would be happy to talk with you and explain how you might be able to help at that particular facility. No matter what your schedule might be, we should be able to find a great opportunity for you to volunteer.

As I sat in the hospital with my husband, I became aware of how many veterans do not receive visits from anyone except our volunteers. I saw the difference it made to these veterans. I benefited from visiting with many of his "neighbors." Please check to see what you might be able to do to make a difference in a veteran's life. You can reap these benefits also!



Just a Little Reminder

Poppy Order forms must be received at Department Headquarters by December 15, 2015. The Poppy Order Form is available on the department website (under Online Forms) or by calling headquarters at 608-745-0124.

HEADQUARTERS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Auxiliary Headquarters will be closed for the following holidays:

November 11, 2015
Veterans Day

November 26-27, 2015
Thanksgiving Holiday

December 24-25, 2015
Christmas Holiday

January 1, 2016
New Year's Holiday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



In this time of gratitude, we give thanks for you. May the blessings of health, happiness, peace and joy be yours – not only at Thanksgiving but throughout the coming year.

Auxiliary Headquarters Staff:
Linda, Carrie, Andrea
and Bonnie