



# WISCONSIN



American Legion Auxiliary  
P.O. Box 140  
Portage, WI 53901

alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

The official publication of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

www.amlegionauxwi.org

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**LAUREL DuBOIS**  
Department  
President

Happy fall everyone! The trees are changing color, kids are back in school and the new membership year is in full swing. The "ALA In the Know" meetings are history. I would like to say they were a great success. The feedback has been very positive. Thank you all for your suggestions on how to improve next year. This was one of those "we do not have to do things the same way" achievements. Thank you to the team members that helped organize this new program: Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan, Diana Sirovina, Becky Mueller, Joanie Dickerson, Ann Rynes,

Teresa Isensee, Laura Calteux, Amy Luft, Danyelle Thompson, Joyce Endres, and Diane Weggen. Your dedication to improving our training has and will help our members, their Units and the American Legion Family.

I have been on the road visiting your units. It has been such a pleasure visiting with you. Every time I hear the things your units are doing for our veterans I am inspired to want to do more. I hope you can instill in your fellow members that same feeling of accomplishment. Remember you do not have to do a lot to be active, just try and do the best you can. It is the trying that matters. Actions often speak louder than words.

Almost every day I receive emails to approve funds to help women veterans who are down

on their luck. We evaluate their problems and try to provide financial assistance. You can also take the initiative by contacting your local CVSO, military commanders, and ask if they know of Veterans or Auxiliary members who may be in need. Be proactive!

National's goal of increasing membership is a lofty one. We all know that membership is the life blood of our organization. Without members we cannot take care of our veterans and their families. Make a list of all the things the Auxiliary, Legion, SAL, and Riders have done for the last year. Make a copy of this list and give it to all your members. Ask them to use it when they talk to their friends about joining our great organization.

Be proud of the American Le-

gion Auxiliary. Wear your Auxiliary shirts, vests, and pins when you go out. We are all ambassadors. Do not forget to ask those relatives you have been paying dues for to actually attend some of our functions. How else will they get the true feeling of our organization if they never partici-

pate? Remember we are a social organization as well as a service organization. Having fun while helping others is a large part of why we do what we do.

Thank you. I know together we can and will continue to "Soar for our Veterans." It all starts with "Hello."

## WORKING THE ALA MISSION



Omro American Legion Auxiliary Unit #234 held their 1st Annual Community Care Package drive on Sunday, September 11th. Items collected were shipped to members of three Omro-area families and to Operation Care Package, a non-profit organization that sends care packages to military members who are deployed. Items donated included personal hy-

giene items, DVDs, games, assorted snacks/treats, and money to offset the cost of mailing the items.

Community members were also encouraged to write letters of support to be included in the care packages. If you're interested in starting a similar event in your community, contact Unit 234 Vice President Jodi Kallas at 920-312-3575.

## MEMBERSHIP

**Char Kiesling**  
Department Chairman  
charbabyrn@yahoo.com  
920-725-0121

### "SOAR FOR OUR VETERANS"

They say **it takes a village to raise a child** but when it comes to membership, **it takes a team to be successful!** Decide who would be a good team member, but ALL members can contribute to your team as diversity is the key. Young and old, long-term members, new members, and Juniors can all contribute to your team. Let's not forget the women veterans in our units who have an even clearer picture of how important membership is for the past, present, and future needs of our veterans. This combination leads to different points of view and ideas and we need NEW IDEAS in every aspect of our organization. Above all...we must remember we are ultimately increasing our membership so

our organization will be there for our future veterans, military, and their children and families. This thought makes it truly a personal thing with all of us.

I hope you PRAISED your leadership in September for getting in their renewals and being a great example to our fellow members. On October 22nd, you can praise your members and units for Making a Difference in your own special way, and PRAISE those members for their efforts. Honor a female veteran with a membership! As you know, National waives their portion of \$9.00 for the first year of membership for every new female veteran recruited. Department and many units do the same.

FYI...the last Central Division newsletter reported that Wisconsin was in LAST place for renewals! We are behind over 1,782 renewals. This should be embarrassing to all of the American Legion Auxiliary members

of Wisconsin. We need to focus on making membership fun and meaningful for each and every member. I know we can and will be doing better and increasing our numbers. Wisconsin has "only just begun!" "Member Pride" is making a member feel so appreciated that she will always do more than what is expected, including making our membership grow. In order to keep growing our organization, we must let members know that they are the Auxiliary's most valuable asset!

*"Success is not achieved in one day; it is achieved by doing the right things every day." ~ Kenneth Kuykendall*

### SOAR WITH EAGLES!

**2017 Department Membership Team**  
Donna Wilhelms,  
dmjawilhelms@gmail.com  
Maggie Geiger, gto54@execpc.com  
Hannah Borree, Junior Member  
Andrea Stoltz, Headquarters Staff

## AMERICANISM ESSAY WINNER



**Drew Jorgensen, left, was the National Americanism Essay Contest winner in Grades 9 and 10, after placing first in the local and state competitions. From Fond du Lac American Legion Auxiliary Unit #75 are President Sandi Smet (center) and Linda Phillips, Americanism Chairperson, on right. Unit 75 is especially proud of Drew's accomplishment as this was the first year the unit promoted and participated in the Americanism Essay Contest. Congratulations!**

## KEEP MEMBERSHIP SOARING • OCTOBER 2016 25.51%

**DISTRICT 10**  
17.56%

**DISTRICT 12**  
23.28%

**DISTRICT 6**  
25.96%

**DISTRICT 9**  
27.23%

**DISTRICT 2**  
30.95%

**DISTRICT 5**  
43.41%

**DISTRICT 11**  
16.90%

**DISTRICT 8**  
18.67%

**DISTRICT 7**  
24.90%

**DISTRICT 1**  
26.72%

**DISTRICT 4**  
27.58%

**DISTRICT 3**  
31.29%



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

**Linda Coppock**  
 Department Chaplain/Music Chairman  
 Ph: 920-982-5811  
 E-mail: beatrice2554@gmail.com

*"This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad."* **Psalms 118:24**

Autumn is here and with that brings forth many new opportunities!

It is a time to harvest old friendships and gather in the new, plant the seed of ideas that will blossom in the Spring. Clean out the closet, get rid of the old way you have always been doing things and open that unwrapped box of inspiration waiting to be discovered! Now is the time we prepare to move forward for the good of our organization, share your ideas, savor our friendships old and new, take that step to help those you hadn't considered to help in the past. For our veterans, active military, their families, the displaced veterans, and your community, we are vital in giving support to those who need it. We need to seek, ask and lend to others the great services we all have to offer. As we go forward this harvest season, share with others our greatest resource - ourselves!

Dear Lord: As we begin to prepare for the fall harvest, help us to serve others willingly, to share freely our knowledge, our strengths, our understandings and our compassion to and of others. Guide us as we set out to "Soar for our Veterans." Let us remember those who are serving and are away from family, those who have passed and left loved ones who mourn. Give us strength and guidance to be a source of comfort to those in need. And Lord, let us not forget to be kind, thoughtful, patient and understanding of those around us, as they may have their own needs we are not aware of. Bless us all! In your name, we pray. Amen

### Music: America the Beautiful

Words by Katharine Lee Bates;  
 Melody by Samuel Ward  
 O beautiful for spacious skies,  
 For amber waves of grain,  
 For purple mountain majesties  
 Above the fruited plain!  
 America! America!  
 God shed his grace on thee  
 And crown thy good with brotherhood  
 From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet  
 Whose stern impassioned stress  
 A thoroughfare of freedom beat  
 Across the wilderness!  
 America! America!  
 God mend thine every flaw,  
 Confirm thy soul in self-control,  
 Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved  
 In liberating strife.  
 Who more than self their country loved  
 And mercy more than life!  
 America! America!  
 May God thy gold refine  
 Till all success be nobleness  
 And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream  
 That sees beyond the years  
 Thine alabaster cities gleam  
 Undimmed by human tears!  
 America! America!  
 God shed his grace on thee  
 And crown thy good with brotherhood  
 From sea to shining sea!

## GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

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

November is almost upon us - which means many important events coming up! Tuesday, November 8th is Election Day. Please vote! This is a privilege many people around the world do not have so we should take this RESPONSIBILITY seriously. Friday, November 11th is Veterans Day - a day designated to honor those who served, years ago or currently, so we can enjoy the freedoms and privileges we have today. Pay tribute to those who have passed with a moment of silence and 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! Thursday, November 24th is Thanksgiving Day. Despite our grumblings, we all have SOMETHING we can be thankful for. Spend time with family and friends and reflect on the blessings and positive things in your life.

Sometimes it seems like we spend more time on membership than 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. What we do makes a difference - even if it just impacts one person or family. President Laurel's theme, 'Soar for Our Veterans' reminds us to work towards a higher purpose. By working our Auxiliary programs, and promoting our activities within the community, we may attract the attention of others who support 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 share donations with their fellow service 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.

And don't forget to involve all your unit members - from young to old. Younger members can help share information through social media and help with some of the "heavy lifting" that older members may not be physically able to do any more. But even "seasoned" members have lots to offer (some of them have the best desert recipes!). They can also help maintain personal contact within the unit by making phone calls, sending postcards or mentoring younger members. There is always something for everyone to do!

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 stronger our voice is 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, Dept. VA&R Chairman**  
 Ph: 920-261-8161  
 Email: mmrtpetrie@charter.net

Trick or treat...

What a treat to visit Camp American Legion. Although an unofficial visit, not surprisingly, my husband, daughter, and I were warmly welcomed by Director Kevin Moshea. Taking time from his busy schedule, he filled us in on the camp, offered insight into Veterans' needs, walked through a week's schedule, and personally accompanied us on a tour of the grounds. Never having been there before, it's a retreat anyone would love to visit and stay! Both beautiful and impressive, it not only takes your breath away, it meets and exceeds the needs of our Veterans - all at no cost. Thank you, Kevin, staff, and the many volunteers for energy exerted, consideration extended, and respect shown! You are worth your weight in gold.

No tricks here! Eau Claire Unit 53 will soon be hosting a Boutique for Homeless Women Veterans and members are planning for a male and female Veterans Stand Down in 2017. First District intends to fundraise for Vets Roll. Similar to the Honor Flights, this program is a four-day bus tour to Washington DC for those either unable or prefer-

ring not to fly. Grafton Unit 355 is gifting Christmas decorations to the new Boudicca House.

What tricks are up your sleeves as we Soar For Our Veterans? You may never know who or how deeply you have touched a life, but know that you are making a difference by carrying out the American Legion Auxiliary mission.

Veterans Day is just around the corner.

1918...the 11th hour...of the 11th day...of the 11th month, marking the end of World War I.

President Wilson proclaimed November 11th as the first commemoration of Armistice Day, and much like today, included parades and public gatherings.

At the urging of veterans' service organizations, Congress struck the word armistice and inserted Veterans. President Eisenhower signed the legislation on June 1, 1954, making November 11th a day to honor American Veterans of all wars.

For a time, Veterans Day moved around on the calendar and was even celebrated on the fourth Monday in October. On September 20, 1975, President Ford signed a law returning the annual observance of Veterans Day to November 11th - a day carrying historical

and patriotic significance to many Americans.

As November 11th rolls around, we'll again be paying tribute to our Veterans - a celebration to honor these special men and women for their patriotism, their love of country, and their willingness to serve and sacrifice. But shouldn't every day be Veterans Day?

Volunteers, thank you for serving our Veterans. Veterans, thank you for your service and for proudly wearing the uniform.

*God Bless!*

## A CULTURE OF GOODWILL

Joanie Dickerson, Department 2nd Vice President and Children & Youth Chairman, recently discovered that Amy, a former co-worker, was eligible for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary, but was primarily interested in joining a unit in her local community. Joanie forwarded Amy's contact information to the unit.

Connie Lamers, Wrightstown Unit President, promptly extended a personal invitation to Amy. The invitation was simple - it included Connie's contact information; date, time and location of the unit meeting; and an invitation to join the members for lunch afterwards. Amy attended the meeting and was overwhelmed by the welcome she received, especially as unit members took time to explain some of the business they addressed in their meeting so she would have a better understanding of what the Auxiliary was all about. Thank you Wrightstown Unit 436 and welcome to the American Legion Auxiliary, Amy!

*How does your unit make new members feel welcome?* Please contact Bonnie Dorniak (deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org) with unique ideas for possible inclusion in the *Wisconsin* publication.

## 2016 CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

Here's some updated information about this year's Christmas Gift Shop!

Per our Department Standing Rules: Donations to the Christmas Gift Shop are to be checks payable to ALA-Wisconsin and submitted to Department Headquarters ONLY.  
**NO GIFT DONATIONS OF ANY KIND WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP**

We welcome your financial donations and hope that every unit will continue your generous support this great program.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

The Christmas Gift Shop program is being expanded this year so your help will be needed to make sure all the presents are wrapped and ready to go on time. Gifts will be wrapped and prepared for shipping in November. We will be scheduling dates for our members to come and be part of this wonderful program. There will be Monday, Friday and Saturday times available. If you would like to volunteer to help, please send an email with the dates you are available to **Diana Sirovina** at **sirovina@att.net**.

Thank you for your continuing support of our veterans and their families.

# WISCONSIN'S STRATEGIC PLAN

## Joyce E. Endres, Chairman

There is a fine line between love and hate, but indifference can destroy the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA). Strategic Planning ensures we continue to make a difference! Each goal provides ways for you to avoid indifference.

### GOAL 5: WITH THE AMERICAN LEGION (TAL), BUILD BRAND LOYALTY

- Promote TAL Family Mission ~ Raise awareness: who we are/what we do/how we make a difference
- Wear ALA pin/branded apparel. Display ALA/Poppy/TAL Family logos
- Ask American Legion Family members: If our unit or post disappeared, would our members, community, local youths, or veterans, military and their families notice? Based on collective answers, discuss together how TAL Family can be more visible and viable.

### GOAL 4: STRENGTHEN

#### DEPARTMENTS AND UNITS

- Understand the ALA Mission and Core Values
- Think like a winner! Incredible things happen when you think positive. Think "I CAN" instead of "I can't" and "I WILL" instead of "I won't."
- Service before self
- Appreciate what you or your unit does and the difference it makes
- Provide quality meaningful service and results, to grow value
- Volunteer and recruit new volunteers
- Engage and mentor to develop reenergized members

### GOAL 3: DEVELOP LEADERSHIP AT ALL LEVELS

- Identify, engage, mentor and develop vibrant new leaders
- SHARE your knowledge and resources; Build trust

- Attend Leadership Workshops, ALA In the Know, and/or National Mission Training
- Attend local meetings/events, District conferences and/or Department Convention
- Develop member/unit/program networks to exchange creative ideas and build friendships
- Aspiring Leader? Let current leaders know! Attend leadership training to learn and grow

### GOAL 2: CREATE AN INTERNAL CULTURE OF GOODWILL

- Be kind and welcoming – SMILE
- Develop and sustain a positive supportive culture
- "Treat others as you would have them treat you"

### GOAL 1: ENHANCE MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH

- Pay your membership dues proudly and timely; PRAISE MEMBERS
- JUST ASK! Recruit new male/female Legionnaires, to potentially gain 1-5 new ALA members
- Invite eligible members to join the ALA and Sons to join the SAL. Have a motorcycle? Join the AL Riders
- Invite new female veterans to join the ALA. Their first year membership is waived
- Encourage members/yourself to DO WHAT YOU LOVE TO DO, not what others feel you should do!
- o Some members do not attend meetings or become a chairman or officer – That's OK!
- o Be an active member! Donate time/money/goods; mentor/engage other members. Have FUN!

Look forward to 'Soaring for our Veterans' with PRIDE and enthusiasm as we support our mission and Strategic Planning efforts and Celebrate Making a Difference!

# SERVICE TO OUR VETERANS

## Sue Hembrook

Director of Hospital Volunteers

Phone: 262-843-4791

Email: genesuehem@wi.rr.com

The question has risen many times "How do we serve Veterans?" How can we help veterans in need, homeless or who are otherwise suffering? The answer is to volunteer at one of the many VA Facilities that are in existence throughout the Department of Wisconsin. Units can invite residents of these facilities for a "Day Out," have a lunch, play bingo, etc. If transportation is an issue, unit members can go to the facility and sponsor a bingo or some other activity. Remember to always work through the facility as they need to know what you plan for the residents that are involved as many may have dietary re-

strictions and medication requirements.

Unit members can visit local retirement communities to do a Veterans Day Ceremony, Memorial Day Celebration or other patriotic celebrations. The veterans residing there will truly appreciate you demonstrating your patriotism. Always remember that there are privacy issues involved, so going into a community facility you may only know the number of veterans in residence, but not necessarily who they are. By the end of the ceremony, bingo or whatever you provide it is likely that the veterans may tell you who they are. Strike up a conversation and get to know them and thank them for their service.

The personal rewards of interacting with those who may be lonely or unable to get out on their own is something worth discovering.

# 2016-2017 National Appointments

**Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan:** Implementation Team Member for the Centennial Million Member Plan and Finance Committee Vice Chairman

**Diane Duscheck:** National Vice President, Future Focus Vice Chairman, ALA Foundation Board of Directors (Designated Director), and National Strategic Planning Committee

**Laura Calteux:** National Executive Committeewoman

**Joan Chwala:** Central Division Junior Activities Chairman

**Joyce Endres:** Membership Committee Member and Strategic Planning Committee Member

**Sue Hembrook:** Central Division Education Chairman

**Teresa Isensee:** Central Division Poppy Chairman

**Diana Sirovina:** Central Division Public Relations Chairman

*A bit of news we have today – A Bakeless Bake Sale is on the way. These busy days, who has the time to bake Pies, Cookies or even a Cake? We've thought of a plan that's truly grand and feel quite sure that you'll understand. In an envelope please put the price of a pie, or cake or something nice. No fuss or bother, you've done your part. This is the end of our little tale. Help make a success of our Bakeless Bake Sale!*

No doubt your Unit has tried this method of raising money and it was probably quite successful. In past years we've had the opportunity to raise money for the Department President's Special Project by holding a basket raffle at both the Fall Forum and at Convention. Because we didn't have the traditional Fall Forum this year, that opportunity was lost. To take its place, we're holding a Bakeless Bake Sale. All proceeds will be directed to President Laurel DuBois' special project, which is the Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

I challenge the District Presidents to get the word out to each of your Units. As an incentive, I'll be offering two 2017 Department Daily Sweepstakes entry forms. One of the entry forms will be won by the District with the highest percentage of Units contributing to THE BAKELESS BAKE SALE (and received at Department) BY DECEMBER 31ST. The names of ALL participating units will then be put into a hat; the winner of that drawing is the Unit winner of the other 2017 Department Daily Sweepstakes entry form.

Note: The Bakeless Bake Sale winners will be entered into the 2017 Department Daily Sweepstakes, giving them the opportunity to win a cash award every day from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. Entry in the Department Sweepstakes does not guarantee a cash award will be won.

### - RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR DONATION AS DIRECTED BELOW -

We are contributing to the Bakeless Bake Sale:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| _____ Cupcakes 18 for \$5.00   | _____ Cookies 3 dozen for \$10.00      |
| _____ Brownies 3 dozen for \$12.00                                       | _____ Homemade fudge 1 lb for \$25.00  |
| _____ Dutch Apple Pie for \$7.00   | _____ Homemade bread 1 loaf for \$4.00 |
| _____ Cheesecake for \$20.00   | _____ Cream pie for \$9.00             |
| _____ Chocolate cake for \$9.00  | _____ Torte for \$15.00                |
| _____ Other (what did you not want to bake but love to eat?) for \$_____ |  |

Please make donations payable to ALA-Wisconsin.

Send checks to: ALA Department of Wisconsin, PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901-0140

(A \$25.00 fee will be charged for any check returned by the bank.)

UNIT # \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT # \_\_\_\_\_  
 CONTACT NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
 MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support of President Laurel's special project: The Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Please contact Department Fundraising Chairman Linda Faas with any questions.  
 lfaas@sbcglobal.net Home phone: 262-375-1833 Cell phone: 414-217-5594

## Do You Wear The AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY LOGO everywhere you go, every chance you get? Well, now you can!!!

**THE MISSION OF STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL 5 IS: "WITH THE AMERICAN LEGION, BUILD BRAND LOYALTY."**



We are promoting a magnetic emblem to wear proudly for only \$5.00!

For five dollars (shipping and handling included), your magnetic emblem will be mailed to you. The Strategic Planning Goal 5 Team wants you to use the emblem as a membership tool – make it affordable to members, include it in New Member Packets, give to a new member when you take her application, and/or give to a member as an incentive to get new members! Buy one – buy many! Wear often – inspire many!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, St Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Emblems ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Department will implement a \$25.00 administrative fee for checks returned by the bank

Please make checks payable to "ALA-Wisconsin" and mail your order to:  
 ALA Department of Wisconsin, PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901-0140

## Entry forms for the 2017 ALA Daily Sweepstakes have been mailed out...

Return your entry forms by 12/31/16 for a chance to win!

**Winner Every Day! 365 Winners!**

**\$11,815 in cash prizes!**

**One \$500 winner every month!**

Contact Headquarters at 866-664-3863 for additional entry forms. Only original entry forms will be accepted. No donation is required to participate. Proceeds benefit our veterans, the military and their families. Contributions are greatly appreciated.





**AMERICANISM**

**Amy Luft, Dept. Chairman**  
 amyjluff@gmail.com  
 414-651-7300

**VOTING MATTERS!**  
*Make your voice heard...  
 Every vote counts!*

The right to vote and participate in government is one of the most cherished rights in the United States. No other vote is more important than the one to elect the single individual citizen to represent the entire country-- the Office of the President of the United States. Out of all the things Americans vote for, this would appear to be the granddaddy of them all. The big one. El numero uno. So it would make sense then that out of all the votes one casts as an American, the vote for President would be the most pure and democratic

of all. Why is it then that many citizens take their right to vote for granted? It wasn't truly that long ago when entire swaths of the population — like women — were denied that right. Women were granted suffrage in 1919, meaning the grandmothers of many millennials were alive during a time when they were prohibited from casting a ballot.

But when it's time to vote again, it's easy to come up with reasons not to go to the polls. "I'm too busy. I don't know who to vote for." Or this one, repeated over and over by people across America: "My vote doesn't count, so what's the point?"

Voting matters. When voters don't turn out to choose their national, state and local govern-

ments, they receive a government that doesn't represent them. More importantly, it's our civic duty. Is it just a coincidence that the month of November is the month that we vote and honor our veterans? Our military has fought for all of us to have this and many other freedoms... the least we can do is show our appreciation by utilizing these our rights.

Here's a few steps to help you prepare for this year's elections:

1. REGISTER TO VOTE. At [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) you can register to vote, check your voter registration status, find your polling place, see what's on your ballot, and request an absentee ballot.

2. HAVE YOUR PHOTO ID READY. The U.S. Supreme Court has affirmed the photo ID provi-

sions of 2011 Wisconsin Act 23. A photo ID is now required to receive a ballot in all special and regular elections.

3. RESEARCH THE CANDIDATES. Take time to study the issues, attend Town Hall meetings and learn as much as you can about all the candidates. Watch the debates and read up on the matters that are important to you.

4. MAKE A PLAN. It may sound obvious, but having a voting plan is one of the most important things you can do after registering. Work, school, picking up the kids and grocery shopping can make any day hectic. Make a plan to get to your polling station.

5. SPREAD THE WORD. Friends, family and acquaintances often talk politics, but sometimes

don't make it to the ballot box. Make sure those around are as prepared as you. If they haven't registered, send them to [Vote.USA.gov](http://Vote.USA.gov) to register. Be the informed one in your group.

As a U.S. citizen, your vote is not only something politicians compete for, but it is your constitutional right. And exercising that right is as American as the stars and stripes.

If nothing else, voting is a license to justifiably complain about your elected officials. Your grievances will carry more weight if you speak out as a voter trying to hold your candidates accountable for promises they made.

Respect your right to vote! **It's a privilege that many people in the world don't have.**



**CALENDAR FUNDRAISER WINNERS SEPTEMBER 2016**

1	15.00	Pat Hunn	Fort Atkinson
2	15.00	ALA #284-Holmen	Holmen
3	15.00	Betty Graack	Waunakee
4	25.00	Jane Schmittinger	Nashotah
5	500.00	David Gough	Darlington
6	15.00	Freda Green	Marshfield
7	15.00	Wendy Springer	Waterloo
8	15.00	Allen Buechner	Sturgeon Bay
9	15.00	Cynthia Schaefer	Grafton
10	15.00	Judith Bloss	St Francis
11	25.00	Katie Metzfeld	Brookfield
12	15.00	Charles Knapp	Menomonee Falls
13	15.00	Eleanor Paulson	Madison
14	15.00	Karen Baumann	Madison
15	15.00	Karen Kahl	St Croix Falls
16	15.00	Lynn Schmitt	Sheboygan Falls
17	15.00	Esther Olson	Spooner
18	25.00	June Polczynski	Grand Marsh
19	15.00	Marie Turk	Onalaska
20	15.00	Thomas Forbes	Mineral Point
21	15.00	Gloria Daelke	Black Creek
22	15.00	Marilyn Uelmen	Random Lake
23	15.00	Fern Fry	Mondovi
24	15.00	Jeffery Stroede	Madison
25	25.00	Ruth Butalla	Marathon
26	15.00	Kalea Lorenzi	Waukesha
27	15.00	Diana Gwiazdzinski	Winneconne
28	15.00	Margaret Larson	River Falls
29	15.00	Rosemary Parsons	Stockbridge
30	15.00	Sonja Gough	Darlington



*Just a Little Reminder*

Poppy Order forms must be received at Department Headquarters by December 16, 2016.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY • DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN  
 2015-2016 NATIONAL AWARDS**

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**

For creating a culture of goodwill, resulting in increased membership and successful fundraising opportunities  
**James P. and Michael Sullivan Unit 383, Lone Rock**  
*Lisa Bowen, Unit President*

**AMERICANISM**

Most Outstanding Overall Americanism Program In Central Division  
**Department of Wisconsin**  
*Char Kiesling, 2015-2016 Chairman*

National Americanism Essay Contest  
**Class I, Winner in Central Division - Joley Berger**  
*Sponsored by Pembine Unit 461, 9th District*

**Class III, Winner in Central Division - Micah Missall**  
*Sponsored by Columbus Unit 62, 2nd District*  
**Class IV, Winner in Central Division - Drew Jorgensen**  
*Sponsored by Fond du Lac Unit 75, 6th District*

**CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION**

The American Legion's Excellence Award Heritage Circle Gift Club for being in the top ten departments in per capita giving for 2015-2016  
**Department of Wisconsin**  
*Laura Calteux, 2015-2016 Department President*

**HISTORIAN**

Certificate of Merit for Best Department History in the Central Division  
**Joanie Dickerson, Department Historian**

**MEMBERSHIP**

Silver Brigade for recruiting 25 or more new Auxiliary members  
**LaVonne Pulvermacher**  
*Lone Rock Unit 383, 3rd District*

**POPPY**

Poppy Poster Contest  
**Class I - Ayden Phillips**  
*Sponsored by Almond Unit 339, 8th District*  
**Class IV - Courtney Peterson**  
*Sponsored by Athelstane/Silver Cliff Unit 66, 9th District*  
**Class V - Brielle Stapleford**  
*Sponsored by Wausaukee Unit 150, 9th District*

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Certificates of Recognition for Goal 4, "Strengthen Departments and Units"  
**Judy Kuta & Becky Mueller**  
*Department Goal Champions, Goal 4*  
 For amending Department governing documents to allow National Executive Committee member to serve longer than a single one-year term; For developing effective training tools and resources for units in the Central Division; For achieving a 20% or more increase in Unit member attendance at department-wide meetings in the Central Division

**VETERAN AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION**

Veterans Creative Arts Festival Gold Award for Department contribution between \$5,000-\$14,999  
**Department of Wisconsin**  
*Laura Calteux, 2015-2016 Dept. President*

**VAVS PERFECT ATTENDANCE CARDS**

**Pat Flanders, Zetta Frederickson, Cora Gavigan, Laura Hubert, Joyce Sporrer, Rose Wenger**

**... 2016-2017 DATES TO REMEMBER ...**

- Oct 29 6th District Senior Fall Fun Day  
Elks Lodge • 175 W. Fernau, Oshkosh, WI
- Nov 5 8th District Fall Conference  
Crystal Falls Banquet Center  
1500 Handschke Drive • New London, WI
- Nov 12 7th District Fall Conference  
American Legion Post 110  
110 Welch Prairie Road • New Lisbon, WI
- Jan 19-22 TAL Midwinter Conference  
HoChunk Casino • Baraboo, WI
- Feb 20 George Washington Luncheon  
10:30 am - Social • 11:45 am - Opening  
Klemmer's Banquet Center  
10401 W. Oklahoma Ave • Milwaukee, WI
- Mar 18 7th District Spring Conference  
Unit 65 • Rome, WI
- April 1 8th District Spring Conference  
Freemont, WI

- Apr 1-2 & Apr 8-9 WALA State Bowling Tournament  
Leisure Lanes • Monroe, WI
- Apr 22 6th District Spring Conference  
Green Lake, WI
- Apr 29 2nd District Spring Conference  
Wintergreen Resort, WI Dells, WI
- Apr 29 9th District Spring Conference  
Marinette County, WI  
(location to be determined)
- Jun 18-23 ALA Badger Girls State  
UW-Oshkosh
- Jul 13-16 2017 Department Convention  
Radisson Paper Valley Hotel • Appleton, WI
- Aug 18-24 2017 National Convention  
Reno, NV

*(Installation of National Officers Diane Duscheck & Denise Rohan)*

— Information is subject to change —

**OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE!**

*Do you have a professional background in finance?  
 Would you like to help shape the American Legion  
 Auxiliary at the national level?  
 Apply for a spot on the National Finance Committee!*

National President Mary Davis is seeking applications from motivated members interested in being appointed to the National Finance Committee for the 2016-2017 administrative year. You need not have served at the department level before holding a position on a national committee; unit-level

ALA members are encouraged to apply! Resumes should highlight the candidate's professional background in finance. Please email all resumes to [natlpres@alaforveterans.org](mailto:natlpres@alaforveterans.org) by Friday, December 16, 2016. The email subject line should read, "Finance Committee Resume."