



For April /May Meeting 2026



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American Legion Auxiliary Mission Statement:

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.

The Monthly Unit Mailing is posted on the Wisconsin Department website under the Unit Mailing link:
www.amlegionauxwi.org



Greeting from Department President Sue Hembrook...

Spring has arrived, at least the calendar is telling us that. Hopefully, our yo-yo weather will balance out and we will have an uneventful Spring. This time of year, is always a reawakening for all, a time of flowers and grass coming back to life. In general, a time for all of us to be rejuvenated and partake in the beauty of rebirth.

In the Auxiliary world, Spring brings reporting time. It is a time for our units to share their accomplishments with one another. It is a time for you all to brag about what your “Legion Family” has accomplished. Please feel free to brag as we want to hear about your accomplishments.

The new reporting process will hopefully make it easier for you to share these accomplishments. I wish to thank everyone in the Department for embracing this new process. It is our goal to have more units report and hopefully this new process will assist in that endeavor.

We all can learn from one another and in sharing your successes is what is helping us to make our Department a success. Sharing your accomplishments is a great way to help others to improve what they are doing or allow them to “Think outside their box”. Wonderful and innovative ideas come from sharing and it is our duty to help one another.

Do not forget to submit for our many awards, both on the Department and National level. Wisconsin is a premier Department and we need to showcase our accomplishments to everyone. Be proud of what you do for you are all amazing! Our veterans and active-duty military and their families are so very appreciative of your dedication.

Please do not forget to enroll in the “Grass Roots” action center. It is a great way to let our Senators and Representatives feel the support of our Legion Family. By enrolling you will be prompted to contact your politicians directly. Your voice will be heard to support our veterans and military. It is so imperative, especially now with the world in conflict to do your part.

Also, this year we are celebrating the 250th Birthday of our Country, with July 4th being the main focus of festivities. Hopefully, your Legion Family is planning a celebration. A celebration which would include your surrounding community would be a wonderful way to spread the word of your accomplishments. Please plan to celebrate in some way as this is a monumental birthday for our country.

Honor our country! Support our Veterans!

Thank you so very much for supporting this motto!

Sue Hembrook



GREETINGS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin

Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Bonnie Dorniak

www.amlegionauxwi.org ~ deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org ~ 608-745-0124

2026 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Units are reminded to compare the biweekly membership report with their records to ensure the numbers are correct. If you believe more members have paid than the number reflected on the report, verify that all the checks submitted with transmittals have cleared the bank. If they have not been cashed, the transmittal and check were not received by HQ. Questions? Please contact Andrea Stoltz at alawi@amlegionauxwi.org.

POPPY DISTRIBUTION/PROFITS:

Although National Poppy Day is Friday, May 22, 2026, **units are reminded that poppy distributions can be done all year long.** If you are unable to do a poppy drive during the traditional May timeframe, consider doing one for Flag Day (June), Independence Day (July), community events (all summer long), Veterans Day (November), etc. Poppy Profit Reports are due to Department Headquarters as soon as poppy distributions are completed. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Cason at 608-745-0124 or bookkeeping@amlegionauxwi.org.

2027 MEMBERSHIP CARDS/ROSTERS

Although we are still actively collecting dues for 2026, National has already pulled the information for the 2027 membership cards and rosters that will be distributed in July. Any changes processed after Tuesday, March 31st – including name or address changes, dropped or deceased members – will be listed incorrectly.

2026 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The 2026 Department Convention is July 17-18, 2026 at the Hilton Paper Valley in Appleton. We hope to see you there!

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS:

- ◆ Past Presidents Parley business meeting (to be held via Zoom, date and time to be determined)
- ◆ Friday, July 17th – General Session (starting at 8:30 am)
- ◆ Saturday, July 18th –
 - General Session with Elections (starting at 8:00 am)
 - Installation
 - Post Convention DEC Meeting
- ◆ Sunday, July 19th
 - Joint Memorial Service
 - Orientation for 2026-2027 Department Officers, District Presidents, and District Membership Chairmen

Visit the department website for more details.

2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION

National convention is in Louisville, Kentucky. General sessions are August 31-September 2, 2026. Anyone interested in attending should ask to be nominated as an Alternate by their District President. Members who prefer to attend as guests only, should notify Bonnie Dorniak (deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org) to request a convention packet when available.



ALA BADGER GIRLS STATE

All Girls State delegate and alternate registrations were due by April 1st. Units should contact their sponsored girls to ensure they are registered and committed to the 2026 session. Full refunds of the reservation fee will be issued if requested in writing prior to April 15th. Refund requests emailed or postmarked after April 15th will be assessed a \$50 processing fee for each reservation cancellation. NO REFUNDS will be issued after May 1st. Questions? Contact Carrie Thrasher at alabgs@amlegionauxwi.org or 608-745-0345.

2026 DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCES

District	Date	Location	Registration Time & Fee	Lunch Fee	Make check payable to	Send check to	Contact Person	Deadline
1	4/18/2026	Hartland American Legion Post 294 231 Goodwin Avenue Hartland WI 53029	Registration: 9:00 - 9:45 am Sr Fee: \$15:00 Jr Fee: \$5:00	included in Registration	ALA Unit 294	Dawn Buika 757 Windsor Circle Hartland WI 53029	Sam Catura 414-418-0289 anitacatura9@gmail.com	4/3/2026
2	4/25/2026	American Legion Post 166 201 S Water Street E Fort Atkinson WI 53538	Registration: 8:00 - 8:55 am Fee: \$5.00	\$14.00	ALA 2nd District	Kristy Wakeman 450 Street Rio WI 53960	Sharon Burbach 920-478-3242 shortybach@gmail.com	4/1/2026
3	4/25/2026	Dodgeville High School 912 W Chapel Street Dodgeville WI 53533	Registration: 8:00 - 8:45 am Fee: \$5.00 Pay Reg fee at door	\$20.00	American Legion Iowa County Council	Joe Salava 216 Cretney Street Ridgeway WI 53582	Shelley Drager 608-459-0129 mariahs45@hotmail.com	Lunch deadline 4/3/2026
4 & 5	5/16/2026	American Legion Post 434 9327 S Shepard Avenue Oak Creek WI 53154	Registration: 9:00 - 9:55 am Fee: \$2.00	\$15.00	ALA 4th District	Sue Hembrook 24215 60th Street Salem WI 53168	Marge Ciechanowski 414-550-0848 margecie@hotmail.com	5/6/2026
6	4/18/2026	Montello American Legion Post 351 W3008 State Hwy 23 E Montello WI 53949	Fee: \$20.00	included in Registration	ALA Unit 351	Sarah Polk PO Box 26 Montello WI 53949	Diane Steinert 920-573-1846 djdsteinert@gmail.com	4/10/2026
7	4/18/2026	LaCrosse American Legion Post 52 711 6th Street South LaCrosse WI 54601	Registration: 8:00 - 9:00 am Fee: \$15.00	included in Registration	ALA District 7	pay day of conference - RSVP Jesse Elmhorst	Jesse Elmhorst 715-937-8246 jesseelmhorstwi@gmail.com	ASAP
8	3/28/2026	Fremont American Legion Post 391 322 Waupaca Street Fremont WI 54940	Registration: 7:45 - 8:30 am	TBD	ALA Unit 391	ALA Post 391 PO Box 161 Fremont WI 54940	Kay Grosskopf 715-881-1843 alawidist8@gmail.com	3/14/2026
9	4/11/2026	Woods Golf Course 530 Erie Road Green Bay WI 54311	Registration: 8:00 - 8:45 am Fee: \$2.00	\$18.00	9th District ALA	Lisa Wolfinger 407 Whitney Street Kaukauna WI 54130	Sue Keyzers 920-246-9044 suekeyzers.ala@gmail.com	3/27/2026
10	4/25/2026	Bloomer Area Veterans Center 1206 Veterans Memorial Drive Bloomer WI 54724	Registration: 8:00 - 9:00 am Senior Fee: \$5.00 Junior Fee: .50 c	\$15.00	ALA Unit 295	Mary Wolf 902 15th Avenue Bloomer WI 54724	Yvonne Seidling 715-559-3881 vonver@bloomer.net	3/31/2026
11	4/25/2026	Reiter Center 1858 S. Michigan Street Three Lakes, WI 54562	Registration: 8:30 - 9:30 am Fee: \$3:00	\$15.00	TAL Post 431	TAL Post 431 P.O. Box 103 Three Lakes WI 54562	Chris Lamon 715-482-0553 cmlamon97@gmail.com	4/11/2026
12	4/18/2026	Veterans Center 10534 Main Street Hayward WI 54843	Registration: 9:00-10:00 am Fee: \$3.00	Free will offering	Registration - Pay at door. Lunch - Units contact Mary Poppe at 715-558-9774 with lunch attendee numbers	Barb McDaniel 360-551-6059 skcbemcdan@msn.com	Lunch numbersA SAP	



2026-2027 UNIT OFFICERS FORM

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901-0140
Ofc: 608-745-0124 ♦ Fax: 608-745-1947
Email: alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

Unit City Location _____ Unit # _____

County _____ Dist # _____

Meeting Location/Date & Time _____

- Units must have this form submitted to Department to be eligible for Unit Membership Awards.
- Please designate **ONE OFFICER** from this form to receive important Unit information.

Name & Title: _____

President's Name _____ Member ID # _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Primary Ph # _____ Cell Home Secondary Ph # _____ Cell Home

Email _____

Secretary's Name _____ Member ID # _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Primary Ph # _____ Cell Home Secondary Ph # _____ Cell Home

Email _____

Treasurer's Name _____ Member ID # _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Primary Ph # _____ Cell Home Secondary Ph # _____ Cell Home

Email _____

Membership Dues collection person: who will receive all membership material & be printed on each Renewal Notice

Name: _____ Member ID # _____

Primary Ph # _____ Cell Home Secondary Ph # _____ Cell Home

Email _____

Personal Address or Unit Address Post Address

Mailing Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

ALABGS Chairman's Name _____ Member ID # _____

(**Note:** The person in the **UNIT** who will receive ALABGS information)

Mailing Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Primary Ph # _____ Cell Home Secondary Ph # _____ Cell Home

Email _____

Signed _____

(Name/Title)

Date _____



**AMERICAN
LEGION**
AUXILIARY
Department of Wisconsin

AMERICANISM

Deanna Farley, Department Chairman
farleyofsc@gmail.com

The purpose of the Americanism program is to promote patriotism and responsible citizenship. As an ALA member, we all should be knowledgeable about proper flag etiquette. Americanism is everyone's responsibility in so many ways. Always be prepared as an ALA Member to promote the observation of patriotic holidays in your community, People will look to our organization for information.

The brochure **Proper Flag Etiquette** is a great handout to have on hand with you at all times. What a great project for our units to pursue! Finding a suitable place to display this brochure and along with other brochures that we have available to us so that they would be available for our communities.

A part of the Americanism Program is the Americanism Essay Contest. The topic for 2025-2026: *"Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans who Fought for Our Freedom."* To date, I have received 40 entries to the essay contest. I am excited to be able read all of the work from our students. I like what I have seen so far!

I received 34 Americanism submissions from units doing their Annual Reports. I am pleased with what I have received thus far. Our units are taking the time to complete reports which are very important to our organization.

The whole Legion Family is going to shine the next few months. We will have several opportunities to show off our Americanism qualities starting with the National Poppy Day on May 22 and followed by the May 25 Memorial Day Celebration. On June 22, we have National Flag Day. Then the BIG celebration of the year, on July 4 we will celebrate our country's 250 birthday. The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary will be a huge part of all of these celebrations!

There is a wealth of information available on Americanism on both the ALA Department of Wisconsin website and the ALA National website. For further information visit: americanism@alaforveterans.org.


**AMERICAN
LEGION**
AUXILIARY
Badger
Girls State



Website: www.alabgs.org

We are gearing up the 2026 session of ALABGS, and we hope all the delegates are as excited as we are! Last year there was a huge transition to new buildings on the UWO campus, and we expect this year will be an outstanding year. Here are a few things your unit can help us with in preparation!

1. If you have a delegate (or two!) collect spare change at your unit meetings for the delegates to bring for our annual Penny War! All money collected goes either to the Scholarship Fund or the general ALABGS program.
2. Make sure your delegate goes to the ALABGS website for Session and Orientation information - www.alabgs.org; such as Parent and Delegate information, arrival and departure times, a packing list, directions to the University, and a sample daily schedule.
3. If your unit is not sponsoring a delegate, there are other things you can do! If any of your unit members can volunteer, even for a few days, all help is welcome. Contact myself or Executive Director Joanie Dickerson for more information. If you can't donate time, feel free to donate money to the program- funds collected are allocated toward supplies purchased for the delegates, including t-shirts, pens, citizen manual (printing cost), and bags.

We appreciate any support you and the rest of the unit can give to the program - it takes a village to make this program as successful as it has been! Thank you.

Dany Thompson, Department Chairman
alabgs.chairman@gmail.com

Joanie Dickerson, Executive Director
bgs.exec.director@gmail.com



Auxiliary Emergency Fund

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is a fund that provides temporary emergency assistance to eligible American Legion Auxiliary members who have endured a significant financial setback as a result of an act of nature or another personal crisis.

Applicants must be American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) members and maintained ALA membership for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years). Auxiliary Emergency Fund grants of up to \$3,000 provide immediate emergency assistance to ALA members in areas devastated by a natural disaster, such as tornado, flood, fire, hurricane, earthquake, or other severe weather. The applicant must have received damage to their primary residence and/or been displaced or evacuated from the residence and had out-of-pocket expenses for food, clothing, and shelter. Applications must be submitted electronically through the national website within 3 months of disaster and awards are limited to one grant per grantee in a 12-month period.

Funds requested through AEF related to the payment of medical-related expenses, taxes, general loans, insurances, credit cards, cellular/TV services, animal care, car purchase/payments, and/or home/vehicle maintenance/repairs are not applicable for review or funding consideration.

There are many, many organizations asking for donations and it is important to support the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF). This is **direct** help from members to members in time of an emergency, for a Disaster Assistance grant or a Temporary Assistance grant. Some suggestions for raising funds are:

- Put raising funds for AEF on your agenda for the upcoming year.
- Challenge members to find fun new fundraising ideas.
- Pass the hat at one or more meetings with funds dedicated to the AEF.
- Have an AEF Chairman in your Unit.

As your Unit makes plans for the upcoming year, include fundraisers and donations to the AEF in your schedule. For more information see the Department (www.amlegionauxwi.org) and National (www.alaforveterans.org) websites for additional ideas and information.



Sandy Mack, Department Chaplain
smack0555@gmail.com

As the fires are burning far away, the world feels unsettled, we stop and take in a moment that reaches beyond debate, breaking news and all the noise.

Let us lift our troops in prayer.

Every uniform is worn by a real person, and every assignment is carried out by a living soul. All deployments leave loved ones left behind, counting the days until their loved ones come home safely.

These men and women are serving in places many of us will never go, facing realities many of us will never fully grasp. They bear duty. discipline, bravery. and at times, they bear silent worry no one else can see.

The sight of a service member lowering their head in prayer speaks to something powerful and deeply human. In the middle of turmoil, faith still endures. In the midst, hope still burns. Even where fear is present, God's presence can still be felt.

We pray that they are given courage when every second matters, they are covered with protection when danger closes in.

We pray that their minds stay clear, their bodies stay strong, and their hearts stay steady when weariness presses hard.

Let us pray for the families who wait, the mothers lying awake through the night, the husbands and wives watching their phones for any sign of news and the children holding onto memories, longing for the embrace of someone they love.

May God watch over each and every unit, every road they travel, every post, and every mission they are given.

May He quiet their hearts and guard each life in harm's way.

May He carry them through and bring them safely home.

When the world feels unsteady, prayer is not frailty.

It is faith moving.

It is hope refusing to die.

So today we pause a moment.

*We pray.
May bravery lead them.
May God surround them with His protection.*

"Together We Can Make a Difference"





FINANCE

Diane Duscheck, Department Chairman
ddianeddiane@gmail.com

It's that time of year when our units tidy up the past year and lay the groundwork for the Auxiliary year that is about to begin. Set a time for auditing the unit financial books and supporting documentation. All expenditures should either be accounted for in the budget or approved by a vote of members, and must be supported by a receipt. Bank statements, receipts, the check book, and invoices are supporting documentation for expenditures and deposits. A yearly audit of the financial records is necessary to verify the accurate work of the treasurer. Two or three people can be selected to audit the treasurer's books but the treasurer may not be one of them, though the treasurer can be available to answer questions as needed.

Collected monies should be deposited in a timely fashion and no amounts held out for petty cash. Though the unit will have a poppy fund and a general fund, the monies may be co-mingled in the bank account, but there is separate accounting of the two funds. Poppy funds are designated for specific needs, among them are the rehabilitation of veterans and hospitalized military service personnel, and the welfare of veteran families. Poppy funds may not be used for general expenses of the unit or post.

Double check that the name on the Auxiliary bank account and any investments are in the name of the unit, not in the name of the treasurer. The legal name of the ALA Unit is the name on the unit W-9 form and is recorded with the IRS. If the unit account is in the name of a member, then legally the funds in the account belong to that member. Check that the unit has at least two signatories on the bank mandate. If anything happens to one of the signers, immediately appoint/nominate a second signatory. Signatories should not sign checks payable to themselves. It isn't illegal, but is not an appropriate business practice.

Unit governing documents should: clarify whether the treasurer position is appointed or elected, require a yearly audit and an audit when there is a change in treasurer, indicate the name to be used on bank accounts, outline the process for accepting and banking funds and paying bills, require at least two bank signatories, clarify that bills are not paid without a receipt, and outline instructions for opening/closing bank accounts.

And then there's the IRS Form 990. It must be filed by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of the unit/district tax year. Failure to file the 990 for three consecutive years will result in the loss of tax-exempt status. No one wants this to happen!



HISTORIAN

Dr. Christine Johnsen, Department Historian

Email: cmj102@aol.com ♦ (715) 203-2015

Tips for Writing Your History

- Describe the **impact** the event or activity had on veterans, active duty, youth, or the community.
- Include **current events** that affect the American Legion Auxiliary (local or globally).
- Be sure to include the **failures** as well as the **successes** as we all learn from errors. For example, the unit tried a new project, but it didn't go as well as hoped. Include why the project failed. Future members may see the value of the project but need the details so they can make future projects a success.
- Include all **amendments** and **resolutions** that were carried and those that didn't. If one didn't pass, include the discussion so that others may learn why it failed.
- Write the history in a **third-person narrative**. Your job is that of an intermediary – someone who witnessed the events and then describes them for the reader. Do not include your personal thoughts or comments on the events.



In this very special year, be sure to include any activities that highlight the celebration of America's semiquincentennial birthday!

YOUR HELP is needed to complete *President Sue's Scrapbook!* Mail or email newspaper articles, pictures, flyers (up to 12" x 12"), etc.

Pictures can be emailed, or uploaded to a Google Drive and shared with

Christine.Johnsen100@gmail.com

Include a short summary of the event and a contact name and number for a person who I can reach out to with questions.

All Senior History books for competition must be judged at Spring District Conferences.

Winning Unit and County history books, along with District History books should be sent to Department Historian Christine Johnsen, 159991 Granite Road, Wausau WI 54403, to be **received by May 30, 2026**, to be eligible for Department judging. Good Luck to All!!



LEADERSHIP

Betty Stone, Department Chairman
bjstone626@hotmail.com

Thank you to all who sent in reports and nominations for Unit Member of the Year. May is the month for election of officers. Unit Presidents have you appointed a nomination committee to ask Unit members if they would serve in the capacity of an officer?

Presidents don't be afraid to give another Unit member a chance to grow as she/he is President. They won't do things exactly like you did, that is ok. Be supportive and give them a chance to develop their leadership skills.

Unit members, don't be afraid to take an office position. It will give you an opportunity to develop your leadership skills, you may find you already have those skills. Leaders mentor others to success.

Units enjoy the projects you have decided to do and have fun!



MEMBERSHIP

The Department of Wisconsin membership is at 88.06% as of 3/25/26. That puts us in 6th place within Central Division. Central Division is currently in 2nd place behind Southern Division. Keep Up the Great Work! Every division in the Nation is over 85%!

National has a new goal they would like for us to achieve---every department to reach 95% by June 12, 2026, Female Veterans Day. We were very successful reaching their first goal of 85% by March 31, 2026, so I know we can do it!

Thank you to all the units that have completed your online membership reports so far. I have been reading over them and encourage everyone to send pictures too! The units that are having success with attracting new members and retaining members are doing multiple things to attract members.

- They are visible in the community and wear branded clothing, so the community knows who they are.
- They are on Facebook and are active on Facebook—meaning they are posting all the events coming up in their unit and post. They are sharing posts about events happening in their communities—even if it is not one of their events.
- They are making personal visits and phone calls to members that cannot attend regular meetings and find that some of those members are willing to help at upcoming events. They like being included and not feeling forgotten.
- They are not just stopping at one attempt to attract new members—they do not have the attitude of “oh well, I tried and it did not work” – they persevere and continue.
- They simply ask a person if they have a veteran in their life that they honor or would like to honor by being a member.
- They welcome their new members and make them feel included and that their time is important.
- They are promoting ours and TAL programs targeting the youth—Badger Girl & Boy, scholarships, M Louise Wilson Fund, oratorical, etc.
- They are actively engaged with the schools within their communities participating in Veterans Day events, reading to students, visiting classrooms, etc.

Look back on all the events your unit has done over the years and think about how that has impacted your communities and veterans and their families. Remember the veteran in your life that you honor by being a member of this organization. Use that as motivation to continue to do the good and amazing works that you and your units do for your communities, veterans and their families. And don't give up after only one try. You are planting seeds and sometimes just sprinkling someone a little at a time will cause their awareness of the auxiliary to grow and that may develop into a new member.

Membership Team:

Christina Petranovich, Department Chairman

Diane Burkhalter, Committee

Claudia Osero, Committee

christina.petranovich@yahoo.com

burkhalterdl@gmail.com

countonclaudia@gmail.com



PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY/CAVALCADE OF MEMORIES

Diane Weggen, Department Chairman
dsweggen@gmail.com • 715-644-2668

It is not too late to join the Department of WI Past Presidents Parley. Past presidents at all levels are encouraged to continue their support to the ALA by acknowledging their experience as a past leader can make a difference in developing and mentoring the life of a member.

Past Department President Diana Sirovina (2012 – 2013) will be the honored guest during the 2026 Department Convention July 17-18 at the Hilton Paper Valley in Appleton, Wisconsin. Plan to join in celebrating her ALA service.

2026 Past President Parley Awards

1. A **citation will be awarded at Department Convention** to the unit that describes in 500 words or less how they **worked with the American Legion Family** to fund-raise for Past Presidents Parley scholarships.
2. A **citation** will be awarded at the Department Convention to the **unit, county and district** for their **Cavalcade of Memories** that demonstrate how they are mission driven and American Legion Family focused.
 - a. (The purpose of the **Cavalcade of Memories** is to preserve, display and share the history of the American Legion Auxiliary).
3. Honor your past president mentors by nominating them for the **Past President Parley Mentor of the Year Award**.

Has your mentor served as a county, district or department president and continues to be actively working to serve your unit and other members? This is the perfect time to recognize this past president who has gone beyond the unit level and is continuing to be a leader and mentor to members of the Auxiliary... who excels at encouraging and mentoring other members of the organization on a regular and on-going basis.

To nominate someone for this award, a letter of nomination not to exceed 1000 words must be sent by May 15, 2026, to the Past Presidents Parley Chairman. Recommendation criteria can be found under the Program>Past Presidents Parley button on the Department of Wisconsin website (<https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/pastpresidentsparley>)

Award submissions (narrative & pictures) due May 15, 2026, to Chr. Diane Weggen. Email or call for questions and/or submissions.



Poppy Program

Kathy Grom, Department Chairman
kathy.grom@gmail.com

Celebrating a Season of Purpose and Participation

As the Poppy Program enters its busiest and most meaningful time of year, I hope each of you can pause long enough to enjoy the process. April and May bring a flurry of activity — and with it, wonderful opportunities to promote the heart of what we do. Year-end reports, Poppy Poster contests, Little Miss Poppy candidates, and National Poppy Day all fill our calendars. May is also Poppy Proclamation Month, giving us another chance to educate our communities about the importance of the poppy and the veterans it honors.

Reporting Season: Thank You for Your Hard Work

I'm excited about our new online reporting system, and I want to extend a sincere thank-you to everyone who has already submitted their year-end reports. I hope you found the system as easy to use as I did. If you still need the link, you can find it here:

<https://americanlegionauxiliary.formstack.com/forms/poppyprogram>

Please include as many photos as possible with your reports — seeing your smiling faces and the wonderful work you're doing is truly inspiring. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words. **A reminder: reports are due April 15, 2026.**

Poppy Poster Contest: Creativity in Full Bloom

The Poppy Poster Contest is well underway, and I've already begun receiving posters from units across the state. The talent and creativity of our young artists never cease to amaze me. I wish all contestants the very best of luck and look forward to showcasing their beautiful work.

Little Miss Poppy: A Special Tradition

Little Miss Poppy holds a special place in my heart, especially with my granddaughter, Avery Smith, serving as the current Little Miss Poppy. She has loved every moment of working with veterans and participating in events such as Stars and Stripes Honor Flights and Memorial Day ceremonies. If you are preparing a narrative for your own Little Miss Poppy candidate, I would be happy to share tips or guidance based on our experience. It's a meaningful process, and I'm always glad to help.

US National Poppy Day: May 22

This year, National Poppy Day falls on **May 22**, the Friday before Memorial Day, as designated by Congress. It's the perfect opportunity to distribute poppies throughout your community — though truly, *any* day is a good day to share the poppy and its message of remembrance.

-More-





Poppy Proclamations: Local Impact, Big Visibility

As we await Governor Evers' signature on the Department of Wisconsin Poppy Proclamation, I encourage you to pursue proclamations at the local level as well. In my town, the mayor invites our Poppy Princess to the May Common Council meeting, where she distributes poppies to everyone in attendance. The generosity of the aldermen and community members is always heartwarming. The mayor then reads the city's Poppy Proclamation for the month of May — and because the meeting is televised, it becomes a wonderful way to “advertise” the work we do and the meaning behind the poppy.



PR Chat Session: Join the Conversation

I'm honored to be invited to speak about the Poppy Program during the **April 29th PR Chat session**. I would love to have you join us for this discussion. Your participation and insights help strengthen our program and our shared mission.

Please feel free to reach out if you need more information. I wish all of you the very best of luck with your submissions — and I hope this season brings you pride, joy, and a renewed sense of purpose in the work we do together.

APRIL IS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH

Thank you to all those who volunteer in our VA facilities!
You truly make a difference!

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Huge thank you to all those who donate to make items for our veterans.
Your time and talent are truly appreciated!



A great way to honor those volunteers is to donate either monetary
or wish list items to the facilities.

Wish Lists can be found on our ALA department website, under the
Programs tab > VA&R button: www.amlegionauxwi.org/var



We are always looking for volunteers, if you have the time please check with
your local facility for more information. Facility contact information can be
found on the VA&R webpage> in the Department of Hospital Volunteers section

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart.”

- Elizabeth Andrew



Department of Wisconsin



VA&R: HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS

Chrys Porter, Department Chairman
momchrys@gmail.com

This year is no different than other years in helping female veterans in need. Looking at our economy and the high cost of everything, the need is still great. There have been fewer applications, but the need is still there.

A few program changes were made to be able to help more veterans in the future. This year we put a \$1,500.00 limit on the grant amount. But don't let this fool you that the need is not there. Please think about donating to this great program.

All our veterans struggle with many different issues, organizations like us with programs to help assist female homeless veterans is a blessing. To know that they have not been forgotten or that they are not invisible is amazing.

We have many units that have donated to this program throughout the year. It is amazing to see the monthly reports that show your financial support. Reading how units help within their communities by serving meals at a homeless shelter, handing out hygiene supplies, participating in Stand Downs is an awesome way to help those in need.

If you have done something special with in your unit; or your community does something to celebrate our female veterans and/or assist them with a special program for the homeless needs, please share what you are doing. Please send pictures of the GREAT things your Unit does in your community for your female veterans. Thank you.



SERVICE TO VETERANS

Teresa Steinke, Department Chairman
teresa.steinke_cmx@yahoo.com

How is everyone doing on submitting their reports online? I have received many reports already, and have been impressed by the time, effort and resources that many of our units have invested into their Service to Veterans!

As a reminder, any assistance that you provide to our veterans who are not admitted in a VA facility counts toward Service to Veterans. This would include taking a veteran to appointments, to the grocery store, even to the movies! If you are spending time helping a veteran or just taking the time to visit with a veteran—perhaps so their caregiver can run errands or have some much needed “down time”, that also counts as Service to Veterans. Do you go visit a veteran at a non-VA affiliated facility? That is Service to Veterans.

Do you volunteer at a homeless shelter for veterans? Did you help with a ‘Stand Down’? Those hours count as Service to Veterans. Thinking about homeless veterans, I would like to share some information with you. The statistics are staggering.

- America’s homeless veterans have served in every war since World War II.
- Nearly half of homeless veterans served during the Vietnam era. Two-thirds served our country for at least three years, and one-third were stationed in a war zone.
- About 1.4 million veterans are considered at risk of homelessness due to poverty, lack of support networks, and dismal living conditions in overcrowded or substandard housing.

Any volunteer hours that have been for the benefit of a veteran can be recorded under Service to Veterans—and yes, that does include veterans who are family members. Ten (10) hours per week can be included in your volunteer hours for Service to Veterans if you live with the veteran and you are not compensated for those hours. Five (5) hours per week can be recorded for a veteran who does not live with you.

Remember: 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.

As we consider our mission, let us work together to accomplish these goals, especially those concerning the health and welfare of our veterans! Along with accomplishing those goals, we also need to report those accomplishments!

2025-2026 SERVICE TO VETERANS AWARDS ENTRY FORM

**** DO NOT LIST MEMBERS THAT DO NOT WANT A PIN/BAR ****

This is not part of the annual reports; it is for awarding a pin and/or bar only.

Please mail this completed form by APRIL 15, 2026 to:
ALA-Wisconsin, Attn: Andrea Stoltz, PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901
Fax: 608-745-1947 • Email: alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

**Awards will be mailed to the contact person/address listed below around October 31st **

Service to Veteran hours are awarded as such: upon reaching 50 hours you will receive a Service to Veterans pin. After that, attachable hour bars are awarded for 100, 300, 500, and 1,000 hours. After 1,000 hours, the award increments are increased by 1,000 (i.e., 2,000; 3,000; 4,000 up to 20,000 hours). After 20,000 hours, increments increase to 5,000 hours (i.e., 25,000; 30,000; 35,000). A Lifetime Service to Veterans pin is awarded after 35,000 hours. It is very important to report hours every year as hours accrue so the appropriate award can be distributed.

- If you are a caregiver of a veteran who lives with you, you may claim 10 hours per week.
- If you are a caregiver of a veteran who does not live with you (i.e., nursing home), you may claim 5 hours per week.

Unit City Location: _____ **Unit#** _____

Date: _____ **District#** _____

EXAMPLES OF COUNTABLE VOLUNTEER SERVICE TO VETERANS HOURS

Service to Veterans is volunteer service that directly benefits a veteran outside a VA facility. Some examples of qualifying service are listed below:

- Help elderly veterans at home (cleaning, yard work, etc.)
- Provide transportation for a veteran
- Offer to run errands for a caregiver or sit with a veteran while the caregiver runs errands
- Assist with veterans' job fairs by organizing or working at an informational table
- Volunteer at Camp American Legion
- Donate/Raise money for the Veterans Creative Arts Festival
- Volunteer for the Veterans Creative Arts Festival
- Make tray favors for veterans in nursing homes on patriotic holidays
- Give gifts and cards to veterans in nursing homes
- Make tie blankets or afghans for veterans
- Make Quilts of Valor
- Create and donate items from VA&R pattern book
- Shop for and prepare care packages for home-bound veterans
- Buy school supplies, host a baby shower, or send care packages to veterans' children who are headed to college

Only CURRENT members are eligible for this award. List members on the back of this form in **ALPHABETICAL order by last name (MEMBER ID# REQUIRED)**. Do not separate or otherwise distinguish juniors from seniors. Use additional sheets if needed. ****DO NOT LIST COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER HOURS, IN-KIND DONATIONS OR \$ AMOUNTS****

Please list the contact person in case of questions and the person / address the awards should be mailed to. ***Awards are mailed to the address below for distribution to the members.***

Person completing this form: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Phone #: _____ E-Mail: _____



American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin

2026 REGISTRATION FORM



CONTINUING EDUCATION

DEADLINE:
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12TH
(Please submit one form per person)

Don't miss out on this year's exciting program! Register early to reserve your spot, as space is limited!

Session is \$25/person and includes morning refreshments, a light lunch, and program materials. Sessions will include information on a variety of topics and Auxiliary programs. New topics will be covered, so come out and join the fun!

Attendees will learn:

- How to effectively run a meeting
- Updating your guidelines
- Simplify your reporting efforts
- How to deal with unit conflict

Plus much more!

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Please print clearly.

District #: Unit #: Unit City:

First Name: Last Name:

Email: Phone:

Are you a first-time attendee? Yes No Are you a newly elected (less than 2 years) officer? Yes No

8:00 am – 9:00 am - Registration/Morning Refreshments
9:00 am – 3:30 pm - Informative presentation, lunch break, interactive program session, Q&A

SELECT ONE:

DATE:	LOCATION:
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, September 12→ New Life United Methodist Church Unit 106 721 Pleasant Way, Seymour
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, September 19→ Eau American Legion Post Unit 53 634 Water St, Eau Claire
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, September 26→ Mason-Lindsay Legion Post Unit 385 207 Legion St, Verona
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, October 3→ Dirrigl-Sawales Legion Post Unit 182 274 N 3rd Ave, Park Falls

Mail check payable to ALA-Wisconsin:
ALA Wisconsin
P. O. Box 140
Portage, WI 53901-0140

Registrations received after capacity is reached, will be returned. No reservations will be accepted on site. A \$25.00 fee will be charged for any returned checks.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (\$25/PERSON): _____



Red Book Corrections

- Pg. 5 Change Kay Grosskopf's Unit number from 10 to 391
- Pg. 6 Replace Linda Kostka with Beverly Rhode-Hillman as a member of the WALASBA committee
- Pg. 8 Replace Michelle Adams with Pamela (PJ) Stephens as VA&R Chairman:
847-708-4533 / pj_deptauxwi@yahoo.com
- Pg. 8 Add Diane Weggen as PPP Chairman
- Pg. 9 Add Jacqueline Rowley as Clark County President: 405 E Elm Drive, Loyal WI 54446
715-937-4029 / poppejackie@gmail.com
- Pg. 9 Add Kathleen Brunkow as Eau Claire County President: 4526 Woodford Ct #3, Eau Claire WI 54703.
715-271-0714 / kathybrunkow119@gmail.com
- Pg. 9 Add Julie Brunette as the new Oconto County President: 2688 Trophy Ct., Abrams WI 54101.
920-373-3653 / jbrunette131@gmail.com
- Pg. 10 Replace Sue Middlestead with Deb Porter as the Zablocki Deputy
414-418-3767 / dmullins7@sbcglobal.net
- Pg. 14 Replace Jim Johnson as Alt Necman with Karl Stuvengen / 608-295-5959 / orfywi@gmail.com
- Pg. 16 Update Linda Coppock's email to lindacoppock@sbcglobal.net
- Pg. 19 Update Tricia Rose's email to triciarose906@gmail.com
- *Pg. 19 Update Theresa Schindler's email to tschindler2049@gmail.com
- Pg. 20 Add Lori Szczublewski's ph # 920-622-4683
- Pg. 20 Update Delores Woolf's email to deloreswoolf@gmail.com
- Pg. 77 Update January 2026 Midwinter dates to Jan. 15-18 at Oneida Hotel, Green Bay
- Pg. 77 Update January 2027 Midwinter dates to Jan. 21-24 at Madison Marriott West, Madison

*updated 3/23/2026

DATES & DEADLINES

Last updated 3/30/2026

(subject to change)

2026		
Apr 11, 2026	9th District Spring Conference	Woods Golf Course, Green Bay, WI
Apr 11, 2026	Legion Family Testimonial	Strawberry Creek Club, Kenosha, WI
Apr 11-12, 2026	WALASBA 9-Pin Tap Bowling Tournament	Dale's Weston Lanes, hosted by Wausau Unit 10
Apr 15, 2026	Unit Year-End Annual Reports Due	See Annual Reports on Dept Website
Apr 18, 2026	1st District Spring Conference	American Legion Post 294, Hartland, WI
Apr 18, 2026	6th District Spring Conference	American Legion Post 351, Montello, WI
Apr 18, 2026	7th District Spring Conference	American Legion Post 52, LaCrosse WI
Apr 18, 2026	12th District Spring Conference	Veterans Center, Hayward, WI
Apr 25, 2026	American Legion Family Day	Legion Family Events-Department wide
Apr 25, 2026	2nd District Spring Conference	Fort Atkinson, WI
Apr 25, 2026	3rd District Spring Conference	Dodgeville High School, Dodgeville, WI
Apr 25, 2026	10th District Spring Conference	Bloomer, WI
Apr 25, 2026	11th District Spring Conference	Reiter Center, Three Lakes, WI



2026 Annual ALA Department Convention

Hilton Paper Valley

333 W. College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911

July 17-18, 2026

OFFICIAL CALL TO THE 2026 ALA DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Department Convention

The 2026 American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention will be called into session at the Hilton Paper Valley, 333 West College Avenue, in Appleton at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, July 17, 2026.

Purpose

The purpose of the department convention is to elect officers for the 2026-2027 administrative year; elect delegates and alternates to the national convention; amend the department's governing documents as needed; receive reports of the department officers and chairmen; recognize outstanding unit achievements; and transact business as may be brought before the convention body.

Representation

Representation in the department convention shall be by unit per the department constitution. Units whose district dues have not been paid at least thirty days prior to the starting date of the Convention shall have no representation. Delegates to department convention shall be unit members duly elected for that purpose.

Prior to department convention each unit will receive information showing the total number of paid members as of June 17, 2026 and advising them of the number of delegates and alternates the unit is allowed. It is the responsibility of each delegate and alternate to attend convention sessions so the district has a full delegation at all times. An alternate shall have all privileges of the delegate when the delegate is not present.

Delegates-at-large include all Department Officers, National Executive Committeeperson (NEC), Alternate NEC, Past Department Presidents, and current District Presidents*, who shall each be entitled to one vote at the department convention. Delegates-at-large shall be listed separately as additional votes and not included among the unit's total allowable delegate/alternate count. Units must return a list of their delegates-at-large and approved delegates/alternates to department headquarters for voting certification.

* *Incoming Presidents of Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 are not delegates-at-large for this convention. They assume their positions after installation of officers at convention and serve from 2026-2028.*

All attendees to Department Convention must pay a registration fee to The American Legion, pick up their name badges and voting credentials by 8:00 am on Saturday, July 18th, and be seated within their District for voting at 9:00 am. Business will resume as soon as voting is completed.

General Information

Deceased Members: Names of deceased members that are sent to Department Headquarters by May 1, 2026 on a Member Change Form will appear in the Joint Memorial Service Program.

Fundraiser: Fundraising Chairman Margaret Larson will be conducting a raffle to raise funds for President Sue's special project, Camp American Legion. She invites units, districts and members to donate a raffle basket enclosed in cellophane with a list of the contents. She will raffle different baskets each day, so if you are participating, please email her to let her know which day you will be bringing your basket to convention. Questions? Contact Margaret at maggiedoit@hotmail.com.

Housing: All hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel using the QR code listed on the back of this page. Discounted rooms of \$119/night (plus tax) will be available until June 18, 2026, or until the room block is filled, whichever comes first.



2026 Annual ALA Department Convention
Hilton Paper Valley
333 W. College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911
July 17-18, 2026

HOTEL RESERVATIONS



All hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel using this QR Code:



Room Block Code: LEGION

NOTE: The Reservation Link for discounted rooms of \$119/night (plus tax) will be active from April 1, 2026 to June 18, 2026. Rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis until the room block is sold out or the link expires, whichever comes first. Members are encouraged to make room reservations as soon as possible.



2026 Annual ALA Department Convention

Hilton Paper Valley

333 W. College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911

July 17-18, 2026

REGISTRATION FORM

This is your registration form only; this is **NOT YOUR DELEGATE FORM**. Delegate Forms are mailed to the Unit **30 Days prior to Convention (June 17, 2026)** per the Department Constitution and Bylaws. It is advised however, to **register prior to this date**.

Remember **all members are encouraged to attend** the Department Convention, not just Delegates and Alternates. Only one registration per form; if you wish to register multiple people at once, you can do that by registering online at www.wilegion.org/department-convention (preferred).

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Member ID #: _____ District Number: _____

AL Post #: _____ Auxiliary Unit #: _____ SAL Squadron #: _____

ITEM	NUMBER	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Registration Fee		\$30.00	
Registration Fee after July 6, 2026		\$35.00	
Saturday Evening PCC/Legion Family Event: Buffet - 7 PM, Half-Barrell of Beer, Soda, cash bar and Live Entertainment by Dueling Pianos!! Doors open at 6:30 p.m. <i>(Deadline to purchase tickets: June 30, 2026)</i>		\$50.00/person	
		Total Enclosed:	

Make checks payable to **The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin**

Check #: _____

OR enter credit card information below

Card Type: _____ Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____ / _____ Security Code: _____

Scan the QR code to pay online!



Return with payment to:
The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin
Attn: Convention
P.O. Box 388, Portage, WI 53901
Or email to: events@wilegion.org



2026 Annual ALA Department Convention
Hilton Paper Valley
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DELEGATES TO CONVENTION

Constitution, Article VII: Department Convention

Section 1. The Legislative body of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be the Department Convention to be held annually for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports, and transacting such other business as shall properly come before it.

Section 2. The annual Convention shall be composed of delegates and alternates from each Unit. Each Unit shall be entitled to two delegates and two alternates for the Unit itself, and an additional delegate and alternate for each thirty members or major fraction thereof which it shall have in excess of thirty members, whose District dues have been paid at least thirty days prior to the starting date of the Convention.

Section 3. Delegates shall cast their own votes; the votes to be collected (in case of ballot), counted and announced without reference to district, as set forth in the latest edition of ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER NEWLY REVISED.

- 1. An alternate shall have all privileges of the delegate when delegate is not present.
2. A quorum shall exist at a Department Convention when there are present seven or more districts, wholly or partially represented.
3. All Past Department Presidents shall be made delegates-at-large to the annual convention and entitled to vote.
4. The Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Sergeant-at-Arms and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms shall be delegates-at-large to the Department Convention and entitled to vote.
5. Members of the Department Executive Board, as defined by the Constitution, Article V, Section 2, shall be seated as delegates-at-large with vote in the Convention.
6. The Convention Credentials Committee shall be the final judge of qualification of delegates.
7. Proxies shall not be permitted.

Standing Rules: Department and National Conventions, Executive Board Meetings and National Meetings

- 13. The delegates and alternates to department convention shall be chosen by a plurality vote of the members of the unit who are present at a meeting called for that purpose. If at any time of the department convention, a duly elected delegate and alternate shall be unable to attend, the Unit President shall have the power to appoint a substitute delegate and alternate.
14. A list of the elected delegates and alternates from each unit must be filed with the Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer at least fourteen days before the opening of the department convention except in case of appointment by Unit President as provided in Section 13, and of Units organized within fourteen days preceding the convention. Otherwise, no representation shall be allowed.

Table with 2 columns: Member Count Range and Delegates/Alternates. Rows include: 1 thru 45 (2 delegates and 2 alternates), 46 thru 75 (3 delegates and 3 alternates), 76 thru 105 (4 delegates and 4 alternates), 106 thru 135 (5 delegates and 5 alternates), 136 thru 165 (6 delegates and 6 alternates), 166 thru 195 (7 delegates and 7 alternates), 196 thru 225 (8 delegates and 8 alternates), 226 thru 255 (9 delegates and 9 alternates), 256 thru 285 (10 delegates and 10 alternates), 286 thru 315 (11 delegates and 11 alternates).



2026 Annual ALA Department Convention

Hilton Paper Valley

333 W. College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911

July 17-18, 2026

NOMINATIONS OF DEPARTMENT & NATIONAL OFFICERS

Friday, July 17, 2026

Department Bylaws, Article I, Section 1: The following officers shall be elected annually at the department convention by a majority of the ballots cast: Department President and Senior Vice President. When there is but one candidate for an office, the nominee can be elected by voice vote or acclamation.

The following officers shall be elected annually at the department convention by plurality vote of the ballots cast: First Vice President, Second Vice President, Historian and Chaplain. When there is but one candidate, the nominee can be elected by voice vote or acclamation.

Department Standing Rules, Elections and Campaigns, #2: In line with The American Legion Counsel General’s opinion, any member may run for any office as a right of membership. While each experience as an officer or chairman helps to prepare the member for higher office, members have the right to pursue any office that is personally fulfilling without obligation to seek other offices.

NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION ALTERNATES

Due to Department Headquarters by June 1, 2026

National Constitution, Article VI, Section 2: Representation in the National Convention shall be by Departments. Each Department shall be entitled to delegates based upon the number of members whose dues are paid up-to-date as provided in the Standing Rules.

National Standing Rules, Section II, Subsection 2: Each Department shall be entitled to seven (7) delegates; and one (1) additional delegate for each one thousand two hundred (1,200) members or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of said National Convention, and to one (1) alternate for each delegate. The delegates and alternates shall be selected not less than two (2) weeks before the National Convention at Department Conventions or in any manner specified by any Department Constitution.

Department Bylaws, Article III, Section 1, Subsections 4-5: *Each of the twelve districts may nominate alternates to the national convention at the district level. The nominee selection process shall be determined at the discretion of the district, possibly at their spring or fall conferences, or by executive action. Names of nominees shall be sent to department headquarters as soon as selected and no later than June 1st. There shall be no nominations from the floor and election of alternates shall be held at a designated time during department convention and named in order of plurality count. No alternates elected at department convention shall be named to fill vacant positions until all delegates and alternates have been selected according to the [priorities stated in subsections 1-4].*

- Nomination forms for Alternates to National Convention were sent to all District Presidents and must be returned no later than June 1, 2026.
- Elections will be held on Saturday, July 18, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the convention hall.

DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTION

1	Delegation Chairman (2025-2026 Department President Sue Hembrook)
7	2026-2027 Dept Officers (President, Sr. VP, 2-VPs, Historian, Chaplain, Exec Secretary-Treasurer)
12	2026-2027 District Presidents (based on term of office and membership ranking)
<u>0</u>	<u>Additional Delegates to be elected from supplemental list (based on current membership totals)</u>
20	Total (<i>subject to change, determined by membership totals 30 days prior to National Convention</i>)

Wisconsin has five (4) delegates-at-large: Past National Presidents Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan and Diane Duscheck; National Executive Committeewoman Maggie Geiger; and National Chairman Diana Sirovina.



2026 Annual ALA Department Convention Hilton Paper Valley, Appleton

2026 OFFICIAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

(Current as of 03/04/2026, SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

The following meetings will be held via Zoom prior to Convention. Dates/Times to be determined.

Past Presidents Parley Annual Meeting
Election Instructions Meeting *(for Judges of Elections, Credentials Chair, Department Tellers, District Presidents and District Pages)*

Thursday, July 16, 2026

10:00 am – 11:00 am Registration Setup
11:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration
11:00 pm – 5:00 pm Fundraiser Raffle
2:00 pm – 4:30 pm Headquarters Office – Open
6:00 pm Past Department Presidents Dinner *(by invitation only)*

Friday, July 17, 2026

7:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration
7:00 am – 5:00 pm Headquarters Office – Open
7:30 am – 8:15 am Flag Rehearsal
8:00 am – 5:00 pm Fundraiser Raffle
8:15 am – 8:30 am Processional Line-Up
8:30 am Processional
8:45 am – 5:00 pm ALA Convention General Session (w/lunch break)

Saturday, July 18, 2026

7:00 am – 8:00 am Registration
7:00 am – 11:00 am Headquarters Office – Open
8:00 am – 11:00 am Fundraiser Raffle
8:00 am – 2:30 pm ALA Convention General Session (w/lunch break)

- 9:00 am-VOTING *(Convention doors will be closed during voting)*
- Convention reconvenes immediately following voting
- Judges of Election/Credentials Chairman/Dept Tellers-count ballots

Flag Recessional
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm Photo Session for 2026-2027 Department Officers & District Presidents
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm Installation of 2026-2027 Department Officers/District Presidents

- Adjournment of 2026 Convention

4:30 pm – 4:55 pm Post-Convention DEC Meeting
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Church Services
6:30 pm Joint Memorial Service Practice
7:00 pm – 11:00 pm Past Commanders Club Party w/Entertainment – ***Everyone invited to attend!***
(Advance ticket purchase required – see registration form for details)

Sunday, July 19, 2026

8:00 am Wisconsin American Legion Family Memorial Service
9:00 am – 11:00 am Orientation for 2026-2027 District Presidents & District Membership Chairmen



2026 Annual ALA Department Convention
Hilton Paper Valley
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July 17-18, 2026

PROPOSED RULES & ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1) All cell phones will be turned off while the convention is in session.
- 2) Convention sessions shall start promptly at the stated times.
- 3) A quorum shall exist when seven or more districts are present, wholly or partially represented. All delegates must be seated within their districts.
- 4) Attendees may leave the convention hall only at the end of a speaker's report. Upon returning, attendees will remain at the back of the convention hall until the current speaker has ended.
- 5) District Pages shall be responsible for distributing all convention materials to the district's delegates.
- 6) Guests shall be honored at the convention by applause only.
- 7) Before the election, time shall be granted in the regular order of business to nominate candidates for Department and National Offices.
- 8) Nominations will not be called by roll call of each district. The nominators and the candidates will be called to the stage as a group. Districts with announced candidates for office will be called in numerical order. Other nominations will be asked for from the floor. There shall be no seconds to nominations.
- 9) Nomination speeches shall be limited as follows:
 - a. One (1) candidate for Department President - three (3) minute limit
 - b. Two (2) or more candidates for Department President - four (4) minute limit
 - c. One (1) candidate for office - two (2) minute limit
 - d. Two (2) or more candidates for office - three (3) minute limit
- 10) Immediately following the nomination, each nominee shall be presented from the stage and granted one (1) minute to respond.
- 11) There shall be no nomination speeches for delegates to the National Convention.
- 12) When giving reports, chairmen shall address the presiding officer as "Madam President" and reports will be accepted by general consent of the convention delegates. If there is an objection, a vote will be taken.
- 13) All resolutions shall be referred to the proper committee for study and recommendation and shall be reported back to the convention for adoption or rejection. The resolutions committee shall present all resolutions.
- 14) Delegates desiring recognition shall go to the nearest microphone, address the presiding officer as "Madam President," and upon receiving recognition from the presiding officer, state their name, unit number and district number. A speaker shall be permitted to speak no more than twice on any one question but cannot speak again so long as any member who has not spoken on that question desires the floor. Debate on any question shall be limited to two minutes for each delegate.



2026 Annual ALA Department Convention
Hilton Paper Valley
333 W. College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911
July 17-18, 2026

VOTING PROCEDURE

- 1) Convention delegate registration will close at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 18, 2026.
- 2) Delegates and delegates-at-large will be verified by the Convention Credentials Committee. The Convention Credentials Committee shall be the final judge of qualification of a delegate.
- 3) Voting packets will be prepared for each district containing ballots equal to the total number of delegates and delegates-at-large registered and certified by 8:00 am on July 18, 2026.
- 4) An alternate shall have all privileges of the delegate when the delegate is not present. Alternates will be seated in a designated section for the convenience of a District President to locate and expedite a replacement delegate. Alternates may only replace delegates from within their own unit.
- 5) Voting will be at 9:00 am on Saturday, July 18, 2026 in the convention hall. Promptly at 9:00 am, the American Legion Auxiliary's convention hall entrance doors will be closed, with no one being allowed to enter or exit until the voting process is completed. Only delegates and delegates-at-large shall be seated in their respective district's delegation during voting.
- 6) Districts will be called in numerical order to pick up their voting packet from the Election Judges.
- 7) Districts will commence the voting process after all packets have been distributed. Delegates must present their signed voting credentials to receive a ballot.
- 8) Immediately after voting has been declared ended, the Credentials Chairman, election judges and the tellers appointed by the Department President will move to a designated counting room to tabulate votes and convention business will resume.
- 9) The Judge of Elections will take results, compare numbers with the Credentials Chairman, and provide a written report to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer.
- 10) The Credentials Committee Chairman will give an oral report of total number of delegates, alternates and delegates-at-large by district that had registered to vote as of 8:00 am on July 18, 2026.
- 11) The Judge of Elections will give an oral report of the numerical results of the election and give the written report to the Department President.
- 12) The Department President will declare the winners of the election during the convention session on Saturday.



HONORED PDP DIANA SIROVINA



Past Department President Diana Sirovina will be the honored guest at the 2026 Department Convention on July 17-18 at the Hilton Paper Valley in Appleton, Wisconsin. Diana is a 38-year ALA member currently of Unit 171 in Union Grove, Racine County, District 1. She served as Department President from 2012-2013.

Diana's eligibility for membership is through the service of her late father, Ronald Kaun, who served in the Army during the Korean War. She has her own American Legion Family:

- Husband Bob Sirovina, Past SAL Detachment Commander
- Daughter April Kollmorgen, currently serving the ALA as Central Division National Security Chairman
- Son-in-law Kris Kollmorgen US Navy retired, 22 years in submarine service, a Legionnaire
- Granddaughter Addison, Junior member since birth in 2011

Since 2017, Diana has worked for von Briesen & Roper S.C., currently in the Law Library. She spent three years at the Wisconsin Supreme Court Law Library and has extensive management experience.

American Legion Auxiliary experience and leadership were gained by Diana's many chairmanships and offices at the district, department and national levels. District 4 reached 100% membership both years of Diana's 2005 - 2006 district presidency.

On the department level, Diana currently serves as Chairman of Constitution & Bylaws, Office Policy and Christmas Gift Shop Manager. Other department committees include Public Relations, Fall Forum, State Convention, Children & Youth, Leadership, ALA In The Know, Legislative, Standing Rules, Office Policy, Past Presidents Parley, and Finance.



National appointments include NEC, Alternate NEC, Central Division Leadership & C&B Chairman, and member on Juniors, ALA Girls Nation, Membership, Public Relations and Poppy Committees. Diana served as chairman for the 2010 National Convention in Milwaukee and national chairmanships for Leadership (2 years), National Security, Constitution & Bylaws, Community Service, Poppy and Americanism. She also served as a Mission Training presenter.

Diana's presidential theme was 'Working Together...for Veterans and Our Organization.' Her special project was Wisconsin's Homeless Women Veterans Grant Fund. She encouraged Auxiliary units to "take every opportunity to join with your Post and SAL to work together for our veterans, our active-duty military, their families and our special project—homeless women veterans." Diana ended her year as Department President as the recipient of National President Peggy Thomas' Award for Excellence.

Diana will be honored during the 2026 Department Convention. Please plan to join in celebrating her years of service.

2026 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION RAFFLE BASKETS



**“HONOR OUR COUNTRY,
SUPPORT OUR VETERANS”**

We are asking units, districts and members to donate a raffle basket.

Each basket should include a list of the contents and be enclosed in cellophane.

Raffle proceeds are going to President Sue Hembrook's special project:

Camp American Legion

JULY 16-18, 2026

APPLETON, WI

Any questions, please email Margaret Larson at maggiedoit@hotmail.com