



Department of Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

6th District Newsletter



February 2026

Midwinter Conference

It was great to see so many of you at the conference. The ALA Sessions on Saturday were very informative.

The Department has launched a new online reporting system that is incredibly user-friendly. Your narrative report completion time will be cut in half. Even if your unit didn't participate in a specific program, you can now simply select "No" and submit it instantly to the program chair. No copies, no postage!! Please contact me if you have any questions about annual reports.

There was an emphasis on the American Legion, S.A.L., and Auxiliary working as one. While achieving total collaboration can be a challenge, the benefits are undeniable. If your relationship with your Post needs improvement, consider these steps:

- **Invite Leadership:** Bring in County or District leaders to help mediate and open lines of communication.
- **Show Your Value:** Remind the Post that an active Auxiliary boosts the entire Post's reputation in the community.
- **Collaborate:** Find a shared program to fundraise for or send a member to Legion meetings to offer support.

A unified Family makes recruitment easier for everyone. Don't get frustrated if progress is slow—stay persistent, keep communicating, and let's work toward a stronger, more visible Legion Family.

Membership

Since last month, 6th District has moved up in membership, currently in 4th place. Great job everyone!

The national organization mailed final membership dues renewal notices in early February. To expedite processing, members may pay the National organization at 317-569-4570 or www.ALforVeterans.org. If a unit receives dues, they should forward them immediately to Department. Please watch for duplicate payments due to payments and notices crossing in the mail.

The 2026 Unit Membership Dues Billing Amounts and Unit Membership Dues Collection Person forms were included in the current February/March Unit mailing. **Every unit must complete and return both forms.**

Americanism Recognition Banquet

Join us for the 6th District Annual Americanism Recognition Banquet on **Saturday, March 28, 2026**, at La Sure's Hall, Oshkosh. The invitation and registration forms were included in last month's newsletter. Don't forget to sign up—see you there!

Reminder: ALA Wisconsin Poppy Program – Deadlines & Rules

Dear Unit Presidents and Unit Poppy Chairs,

This is a friendly reminder about the ALA Wisconsin Poppy Poster Contest, an annual opportunity for students to honor veterans through creativity and patriotism. I've also listed our other program deadlines as well. Please contact your local schools and organizations to promote our children's participation. Without your support, we could not have such great response from our talented youth.



Important Wisconsin Deadlines

- April 1: *Units submit the Poppy Award Cover Sheet with narrative for "Most Outstanding Unit Poppy Program."*
- May 1: *Units select one winning Poppy Poster from each class and forward them to the Department Chairman (with completed Poppy Poster Cover Form).*
- May 1: *Units also submit their Little Miss Poppy nomination.*



Contest Eligibility & Classes

Students may participate through local schools or youth groups sponsored by an ALA Unit. Contest classes are:

- Class I: Grades 2–3
- Class II: Grades 4–5
- Class III: Grades 6–7
- Class IV: Grades 8–9
- Class V: Grades 10–11
- Class VI: Grade 12
- Class VII: Students with special needs



Official Poster Rules

- Posters must be created on 11" x 14" poster board.
- Each poster must include a fitting slogan of no more than 10 words.
 - Articles such as *a, an, and, the* do not count toward the word limit.
 - The words "buddy" and "buy" may not be used.
- Posters must feature the red Flanders Field poppy as the central theme.
- Work must be the student's own, completed under the supervision of the sponsoring ALA Unit or school.
- Only one winning poster per class may be forwarded by each Unit.



Purpose of the Program

The Poppy Program helps educate youth and the public about the significance of the poppy and its role in supporting veterans, military members, and their families. If you have any questions or need additional materials, please reach out.

Thank you for supporting this meaningful program and encouraging students to honor our veterans through art.

Warm regards,

Kathy Grom

American Legion Auxiliary – Wisconsin

Poppy Chairman

Legislative Article

Election season is ramping up. Be prepared for political ads and mailings. Watch for who is paying for the ads as one check for bias and a private agenda. Be alert and aware.

The Non-partisan Primary is Feb. 17th. This ballot will include the contested races that are not based on party lines. For example, if you have 3 candidates running for a single school board position that race will be on the primary ballot. If only 2 candidates for a position – no primary. The Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice race has only two candidates so that will be decided in the General Election on April 7th.

Please send pictures (via email NOT Facebook) of your unit members working on the polls, meeting with elected officials and candidates for inclusion in my reports to National. I am proud of what our Auxiliary members do to advocate for our veterans and military.

This Spring Election is the local and school board elections and the Judgeship elections across the state. Judges are to be non-partisan in their ruling, so it is especially important we know their stance on issues. They are the ones that interpret the laws and how they affect us and our communities.

Continue reporting your contacts locally, statewide, and via Grassroots. Wisconsin is routinely in the top 5 for action alerts. Keep up the excellent work in making your voice heard. The Washington DC Conference is Feb. 28 – March 4, 2026, and your impact will be felt.

EXCITING NEWS – For our 1st quarter of our 250 challenge I received reports of over 760 contacts made on all levels. It was a close battle, but the **WINNER is 6th District!** Keep up the great work. The 2nd Quarter winner will be announced in April.

Check out both our Department and National websites for additional resources or contact me directly. Becky Mueller clarenceandbecky@aol.com call/text 920-464-0320

Great Job everyone – stay warm.

Becky Mueller

Dept. of Wi Legislative Chair

*Shared by Char Kiesling
6th District Legislative Chair*

2026 District Spring Conference

Mark your calendar for the 2026 Spring Conference, to be held on Saturday, April 18th, hosted by Montello Unit 351. Registration form is attached. District Executive Committee will have their Spring meeting on March 24, 2026, via Zoom starting at 6:00 pm.

Dates to Remember

- February 21, 2026 – 6th District Oratorical Contest, Post 70, Oshkosh
- March 26, 2026 - District Executive Committee
- March 28, 2026 – Department Oratorical Contest, Ripon
- March 28, 2026 – 6th District Americanism Banquet, La Sure's, Oshkosh
- April 18, 2026 – District Spring Conference, Montello Post 351

Diane Steinert

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6TH DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCE RESERVATIONS

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2026

Hosted by: Montello Unit 351

**Place: Montello America Legion Post 351
W3008 State Hwy 23 East, Montello, WI 53949**

Cost: \$20.00 per person (includes continental breakfast and lunch)

Deadline: April 10, 2026

Registration: 8:00 am – 8:45 am

Call to Order: 9:00 am

**Contact person for conference details: 6th District President Diane Steinert
(920-573-1846 djdmsteinert@gmail.com)**

**Make check payable to: ALA Unit 351
Mail to: Sarah Polk – P.O. Box 26 Montello, WI 53949**

Unit # _____ **Unit Location:** _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Registration and meals: # **X \$20.00 = \$** **Total due**

Use additional page if needed for more members attending.

Remember to bring a raffle basket with a value of \$25.00 from each Unit.