



MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations to the 85 units in Wisconsin that are at or above 100% in membership! Keep hiking and biking those trails, rowing those canoes, checking out the wildlife and shining your lights brightly through your National Parks as you increase your membership!

Wisconsin membership exceeded national's goal of 85% by March 31st, currently boasting 87.38% as of March 18, 2026! We hit the 85% mark on February 25! But let's not stop the momentum! How awesome would it be to get President Sue to 100% by convention?!? That's 2,001 more members. It is doable!

Here's how: with 339 units in Wisconsin, each district needs 167 members, or each county only needs 28 members, or each unit only needs six more members. See, if you break it down into small bites, it can be done. You can take it one step further and break it down by weeks. There are roughly 14 weeks before convention, with 167 members per district needed, that would be 12 members per district per week, or each county would need one member per week from now until convention. Breaking it down even further, it's 1/2 member per week per unit or about one every two weeks. See, very doable!

And what is the easiest way to get that new member? Just ask!

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP TEAM

Christina Petranovich
Department Chairman
christina.petranovich@yahoo.com
715-512-0628

Diane Burkhalter
Committee Member
burkhalterd@gmail.com
414-807-0501

Claudia Osero
Committee Member
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Andrea Stoltz
Membership Program Coordinator
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Membership Totals
- 87.38%
(as of 3/18/2026)

District	Goal %
4	94.68%
11	93.36%
3	90.86%
6	89.87%
2	89.55%
9	89.21%
7	87.45%
12	86.69%
1	85.95%
10	85.49%
8	85.02%
5	72.06%

MENTOR OF THE YEAR: DUE 5/15/2026

Mentor of the Year nominations are due to PPP Chairman Diane Weggen by May 15, 2026.

Visit www.amlegionauxwi.org
> Programs > Past Presidents Parley for details or contact Diane Weggen at dsweggen@gmail.com for more information.

PDP SIROVINA TO BE CONVENTION'S HONORED GUEST

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.

■ Please see Page A3 for the Convention Schedule, the Official Call for the Convention, and for a story about a fundraising event at the Convention.

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



DIANA SIROVINA PDP

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.

'SUPPORT THE TROOPS'

Members of the Fohl-Martin Legion Family 483 in Allenton sponsored a "Support the Troops" event in November 2025 collecting wonderful items donated by the caring communities of Allenton, Slinger, and the surrounding area. The caring, support, and generous number of snacks, toiletries, reading and activity items were terrific. Financial donations paid postage to ship packages out. Over 970 items and nearly \$700 were collected to "Support the Troops." Deployed troops enjoyed receiving the presents and holiday joy.



Unit 483 member Donna Kauper presenting the check and donated items to event co-chairs, LeAnn Boudwine and Sue Melichar.

CORRECTION

EDITOR'S CORRECTION: POPPY MAKING WORKSHOP

Correction: We mistakenly identified the poppy maker in the Poppy Making Workshop article that ran on Page A5 of the February issue. Pictured: Brenda Tryba, trainer from Post 179, and Post Commander Craig Johnson of Brookfield Post 296. We apologize for the oversight.



THANK YOU

To our American Legion Family... Words cannot express the sincere thank you for your prayers, visits, cards, and kind words before and at Tom's passing. The walk-through at the visitation truly touched our hearts! We will never forget the love and support shown during this difficult time. Tom loved the Legion Family and was honored to be a part of it. God's Blessings and thank you!
The Tom Petrie Family - Mary, Matthew, Rebecca & Mark

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Sandy Mack

Department Chaplain/Music Chairman
Smack0555@gmail.com
262-388-9816

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 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"

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

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

The 2026 ALA Department Convention is scheduled for July 17-18, 2026, at the Hilton Paper Valley in Appleton. The PPP Business meeting will be held virtually prior to convention. The opening procession will start at 8:30 am on Friday, July 17. Installation will be on Saturday, July 18 at 3:00 pm. Past Department President Diana Sirovina will be our special guest with a tribute in her honor presented during convention. Department's governing documents will be reviewed and updated, officers will be elected and installed, and units will be recognized for all their hard work with membership this year. Please visit

the website for more convention details as they are finalized and plan to attend in July.

The 2026 National Convention will be held in Louisville, Kentucky with ALA convention sessions from August 31-September 2, 2026. Anyone interested in attending should ask to be nominated as an Alternate by their District President prior to June 1. Nominees for Alternate will receive a convention packet from department as soon as information is available, usually in mid-June. Details will also be posted on the website at that time. Members who would like to attend as guests, should notify Bonnie Dorniak (deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org) to request a convention packet.

In October 2025, the ALA Foundation Board of Directors approved an increase to the minimum subgrant amount that the Foundation will process, raising the threshold to \$2,500. This

change took effect immediately following the board's action. As a result, the ALA Foundation is no longer able to process subgrant requests for donations under \$2,500. Any donation intended to be received and distributed through the Foundation as a subgrant must meet or exceed this minimum amount.

Fortunately, the Wisconsin American Legion Foundation, Inc. will be happy to help Wisconsin ALA units receive donations for Auxiliary programs through corporate grants, foundations, or employer match programs! Visit their website (wilegion.org/foundation) and submit a One-Time Donation Form if you wish to take advantage of this opportunity. Units should also notify Adjutant Julie Muhle (Julie.muhle@wilegion.org) about the potential donation and donors should ensure their payment clearly indicates where it is designated so the funds are processed properly.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Mary Petrie
Department Chairman
mmrtpetrie@charter.net

Some things are simply unpredictable...life throws its curves and Mother Nature often wavers on the season, but a sure constant is the American Legion Auxiliary Mission. The Children & Youth program is one of the four pillars The American Legion was built on. For over a century, units have remained focused on finding ways to support our youth. After all, children are our future and encouraging them to succeed clears the path to do so.

The Sons of the American Legion's snugly A.L.F. is popular and comforting to youngsters facing a loved one's deployment or dealing with a serious illness. Sponsoring delegates to a weeklong government session at ALA Badger Girls State gifts first-hand knowledge and leadership skills while promoting teamwork and lifelong friendships. Scholarships guide students on their educational journey. Monetary and in-kind donations ease bumps in the road for those needing a helping hand. Funding youngsters to a camp like Hometown Heroes creates an extraordinary experience they will long remember.

It's all about our kids! April celebrates the Month of the Military Child and April 15th's Purple Up! Day, both of which show support for military children, raising awareness of the sacrifices they make as their parents and siblings defend America. Wearing purple further emphasizes and symbolizes that color - a combination of the those worn by the branches of our military: Army green, Navy blue, Air Force blue, Marine red, and Coast Guard blue.

The Youth Hero Award honors those under age 18 who have demonstrated a physical act of valor, while the Good Deed Award recognizes those who donate time and/or money for a worthy community cause. Keep in mind that these awards are available year-long, so be on the lookout for possible recipients. Visit the Wisconsin website for award nomination forms. (www.amlegionauxwi.org)

A thank you is a small reward for what has been accomplished, but knowing the ALA has made a difference and continuing to do so will impact these precious lives. That is priceless!



COMMUNITY SERVICE: MARATHON UNIT 469

Members of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 469 of Marathon generously contributed by donating, shopping, preparing, and packing bag lunches for the Marathon County Meal Train. The Meal Train provides lunches to vulnerable citizens in the community, including those without homes, those with disabilities, the elderly, and struggling families.

2026 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

OFFICIAL CALL

Friday-Saturday, July 17-18

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

Purpose: The purpose of the department convention is to elect 2026-2027 department officers, a candidate for 2027-2028 Central Division National Vice President, and delegates and alternates for the 2026 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 in accordance with the provisions of the department constitution. Units whose district dues have not been paid shall have no representation. Delegates to department convention shall be unit members duly elected for that purpose.

Registration: All attendees to the 2026 Department Convention must submit a registration form and \$30 per person to The American Legion by July 6, 2026. Registrations after July 6th will be \$35.

Voting: All delegates must be registered by 8:00 am on Saturday, July 18th and seated within their District for voting at 9:00 am. Business will resume as soon as voting is completed.

Housing Blocks: All reservations at the Hilton Paper Valley must be made directly with the hotel using this QR Code:



The Reservation Link for discounted rooms at the Hilton Paper Valley 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.

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

Installation: Installation of 2026-2027 Department Officers and District Presidents will be on Saturday, July 18th at 3:00 pm.

Please visit the department website (www.almlegionauxwi.org) for convention details.

CONVENTION FUNDRAISER

Margaret Larson
Fundraising Chair
maggiedoit@hotmail.com
715-410-7936

**“Honor Our Country,
Support Our Veterans”**

At this year's Department Convention, we will have raffle baskets to raise funds for President Sue's special project, Wisconsin Camp American Legion. We are asking units, districts and members to donate a raffle basket. Please include a card with listed items and title of the donating unit, district, or member(s). Please wrap the baskets in cellophane. I ask that no perishable items or plants be donated. We will offer different baskets each day, so please email me to let me know which day you will be dropping your basket off at convention. maggiedoit@hotmail.com. Please contact me if you have any questions.

LEGISLATIVE

Becky Mueller
Department Chair
clareanceandbecky@aol.com
920-464-0320

Are you continuing to advocate for our Veterans, Military, and communities? As we watch the evening news, it is even more imperative that we let our voices be heard. In a world full of turmoil, we need to be clear about the priorities that we expect our leaders to set.

April 7 is the General Spring Election for Wisconsin. This is a non-partisan ballot including Supreme Court Justice, Circuit Court Judges, County Supervisors, and School Board Members. This fall will be the Fall Primary and General Election for partisan races, including Governor and Representatives on many levels. Be informed and ready to cast your ballot. All races directly impact our lives.

Grassroots are active. Our department family remains near the top in the number of contacts made through the Action Center. Keep up this important work! The American Legion Legislative Committee keeps us informed by bringing pertinent information to us.

Remember our Wisconsin 250 Challenge and send in your contacts made to your District Legislative Chairman, District President, or myself. Second and Sixth District are fiercely competitive in this contest with 10th District catching up. This is a contest we all win because it shows our strength as advocates for what we believe in.

Time for our reports! Even no activity is a report – but we all should be voting, staying informed of issues, and making a difference. IF you have pictures of attendance at meetings with elected officials, working at a polling place, peacefully protesting, or in other ways making your voice heard, please email them to me. NOT Facebook! I would like to use them in my report.

Remember we are NON-PARTISAN as an organization – do NOT wear your branded attire when attending political rallies or other partisan party events. We do NOT endorse parties or candidates. This also applies to posts on social media. We must maintain a good working relationship with elected officials no matter their party affiliation. That is what makes us so effective in our efforts to advocate for veterans, military, and our communities. Thank you.

2026 American Legion Auxiliary Wisconsin Sweepstakes

**50 PRIZES
TOTALING
\$15,000**

6 prizes at \$500 each
8 prizes at \$400 each
16 prizes at \$300 each
20 prizes at \$200 each



Return by
May 1, 2026

Please consider a donation of \$5.00 each, six (6) for \$20.00 or twelve (12) for \$40.00
Drawing to be held at ALA Department Headquarters • 2930 American Legion Dr., Portage, WI 53901
Draw date May 12, 2026 at 11am. See reverse side for mailing instructions.
NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. DONATION DOES NOT IMPROVE YOUR ODDS OF WINNING.

THANK YOU

to those who have already supported
the ALA Spring Sweepstakes
promoted in the February issue.
The deadline to enter is **May 1, 2026.**
Enter your tickets today!

Amy Luft for Department President

Amy Luft announces her candidacy for the position of Department President. Amy is endorsed for this position by the Rose-Harms Unit 355 in Grafton and the Ozaukee County Council.

As a Paid-Up-For-Life 19-year member, Amy's membership honors her late father Robert Akright, a WWII Army veteran. Amy's passion for the American Legion Auxiliary has blessed her with many opportunities. She has served in several different officer positions including President of her Unit, County and 2nd District. Amy has also held many different positions at the department level, currently serving as the Senior Vice President. Her past department chairmanships have included Leadership, National Security, Public Relations and Membership team. In addition, she co-chaired the ALA In The Know and served on the Strategic Planning Committee. At the national level, Amy had the honor of serving as the National Convention Chairman for the 2022 National Convention in Milwaukee. Her previous national chairmanships have included Central Division Leadership Chair and National Legislative Vice Chair. She currently serves as the National Community Service Vice Chair.

Amy has attended several national Mission Training classes and continues to complete ALA Academy courses on a regular basis. She is also a graduate of the Wisconsin American Legion College. As a member of Stars & Stripes Honor Flight since 2009, Amy served in many capacities including Vice President and continues to serve as an ambassador for the program. To date she has participated in 58 honor flights. Amy is also a member of the VFW Auxiliary Unit 5373 of Ozaukee County and is a state board member of the Selective Service. She volunteers with Interfaith Caregivers, Meals-On-Wheels and has served as a Village Trustee for the Village of Grafton since 2020. Amy has a degree in Business Management and spent over 22 years in sales and marketing in the senior healthcare industry. Currently, Amy works in the nonprofit sector at a local food pantry. Amy and her husband Todd have two daughters and two grandsons who belong to the American Legion Family. Amy's goal is to promote the initiatives and programs of The American Legion Family while supporting and advocating for veterans, military and their families.



Amy Luft

Christina Petranovich for Department Sr. Vice President

Christina Petranovich announces her candidacy for Department Senior Vice President and is a 23 year Paid Up-For-Life member. She is endorsed by Unit 118, Clark County ALA, and District 7.

She served as chaplain, secretary, and President of Unit 118 in Thorp. She was District 7 President for almost two terms. She is currently the Department First Vice President and the Department Membership Chairman. She has been a district chairman of several programs, including Poppy, Juniors, National Security, and Public Relations.

Christina has attended several department and national conventions and mission trainings. She is very involved in her community and church. Her daughters, once very active Junior members, convinced her to join and take an active role 23 years ago. Her desire is to see every unit in Wisconsin get involved and have Junior members, and to tap into their enthusiasm and love for Veterans and this wonderful organization.

Christina is eligible for membership through her father who served in the U.S. Army; her oldest son, a former Marine who is currently stationed at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan as a seaman in the U.S. Coast Guard; two brothers who served

in the USMC and Navy; one sister who was in the USMC; and her middle son who was a soldier with the U.S. Army National Guard.

Christina is a Postmaster in Thorp and has worked for the USPS for the past 33 years, currently working as a Wisconsin District Lead for the Route, Count and Inspection Team. She has been married to her husband, Wayne, for 35 years and they have six children, one stepdaughter, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandsons. Her youngest daughter is getting married this May.

Christina has a passion for God and Country and feels strongly about advocating for our military, our youth and our Veterans. Thank you for your consideration and support.



Christina Petranovich

Christine Johnsen for Department 2nd Vice President

Dr. Christine Johnsen enthusiastically announces her candidacy for ALA Department of Wisconsin Second Vice President. She is a 24-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary, eligible through the service of her husband, Cliff, a 12-year veteran of the Air Force, and her stepson, Clifford, who served as a Navy corpsman for 8 years. Christine and Cliff have a blended family of three daughters, three sons, and two grandsons.

Previously a member in District 8, Christine is currently an active member of the e-unit, Mumm-Welsh Unit 352, Cassville, in District 3. She has held multiple leadership positions in her units, District 8, and Department, including Department Sergeant at Arms, Education Chairman, Public Relations committee member, and currently Department Historian and Junior Activities Chairman. Having enjoyed the tremendous experience of being an ALABGS citizen herself, Christine has returned to serve ALA Badger Girls State as a nurse since 2016, and as Lead Nurse since 2022.

Christine recognizes the importance of remaining active and well-informed in all aspects of the American Legion Family. She has participated in numerous ALA In The Know conferences, National Mission Trainings, and Girls State/Girls Nation Leadership Conference in the past. She is enrolled in the Wisconsin American Legion College program, with plans to

complete the three-course series by May 2026.

Professionally, Christine is a nurse practitioner and currently sees patients with complex needs in their home setting, statewide. She is also self-employed as a consultant in healthcare technology and has provided advisory services to over eighty healthcare organizations across the United States. Dr. Johnsen continues to be an educator, speaker, mentor, and leader in the healthcare industry and a staunch advocate for healthcare access for veterans, seniors, and underserved populations.

Christine believes it is a privilege to serve our veterans, military, their families, and the community, and would be deeply honored to continue her service to the American Legion Auxiliary as your Second Vice President. Christine humbly thanks you for your consideration and support.



Christine Johnsen

Betty Stone for Department 1st Vice President

Betty Stone is announcing her candidacy for the position of Department First Vice President. She has been an American Legion Auxiliary member for the last 49 years and held the following offices in the ALA:

- Unit: President, Vice President, Treasurer, which includes Membership Chairman, and Badger Girls State Chairman.
- County: President
- District: 2nd Vice President, and VA&R Chairman, 1st Vice President and Membership Chairman, and President five times for two years each.
- Department: Scholarship Chairman, Chaplain, Historian, Second Vice President and on the Department Membership Committee.

Outside of the ALA, Betty has been in church work since age 16, teaching Sunday School, Youth Groups, Bible Studies, and planning events. She is currently the facilitator for a prayer group that meets once a week. She is also in charge of the yearly Ladies Encounter at her church and in church camp where she has taught classes for the youth, cooked in camp, and is a financial supporter. Betty also takes part in community activities, is a Sheldon Village Board Trustee, and has been volunteering at the local Elementary School as a Forester Grandma three days a week.

The ALA preamble states: for God and Country we associate ourselves together. . . . Our mission is to serve others not self through the many programs and activities we support and participate in throughout the year. We serve veterans and also the community.

Reading the history of our Unit and District is a motivating factor to continue to serve our veterans and community with enthusiasm. Thank you for considering Betty's candidacy for First Vice President.



Betty Stone

Sandy Mack for Department Historian

Sandy Mack is announcing her candidacy for the position of Department Historian. She is a 15-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 288 in Cedarburg and joined in honor of her father Paul Golabiewski who served in WWII in the Marine Corps.

Sandy graduated from MPTC with a degree as an Accounting Assistant. She then changed the direction of her career and has dedicated over 31 years of service to two agents of Am/Fam. Sandy holds an Insurance License with the Department of Wisconsin Office of Commissioner to provide life, health, property and casualty insurance to Wisconsin residents. She holds a Certificate of Appointment from the Selective Service System and appointed to the position of Local Board Member of the State of Wisconsin.

Sandy has held the unit positions of President, Secretary and served on the Executive Board. On the county level, she served as President, 1st Vice, Secretary, and Parliamentarian. At the district level, she served as President, 1st Vice/Membership Chair, and Leadership Chair. On the department level, she has served as Community Service Chair, PR Chair and ALA/TK Vice-chair and currently holds the position of Department Chaplain. She has attended district conferences, department conventions, national conventions, ALA In The Knows and other training/leadership

meetings.

Sandy's long-term goal is to continue working as long as possible and serving the mission of "service not self." It is not what she has achieved, it is where her heart is, taking one day at a time assisting veterans, our military (at home and abroad), and their families. Sandy has been endorsed by her unit and will be asking for endorsement at both the county and district levels at the Spring County Council meeting and the 2nd District Spring Conference, which are both held in April.

Sandy and her husband Howie will be celebrating their 51st wedding anniversary in April. They have two daughters and six grandchildren.

Sandy would be honored to serve as the Department of Wisconsin Historian for 2026-2027.



Sandy Mack

Donna Jensen for Department Chaplain

Donna Jensen is announcing her candidacy for the office of Department Chaplain. She is a 20 year Paid-Up-For-Life member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Her eligibility is through her late brother, an Air Force veteran and her husband Past Department Commander Wayne Jensen, who served during the Vietnam era in the Navy as well as the Navy, Coast Guard and Air Force Reserves.

Donna's involvement with the American Legion Auxiliary includes holding offices at the unit, district, county and department levels, including serving as Department Chaplain two times. She is currently Unit President, 4th District Chaplain and Americanism Chairman, and Milwaukee County President. She has volunteered at American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State for the past five years and plans to continue.

Her department Auxiliary experience, in addition to serving as Chaplain, includes serving as Chairman and on committees including Fundraising, Children & Youth, Leadership, and Auxiliary Emergency Fund. She has also attended Auxiliary National Mission Training.

Donna has been attending Auxiliary Department Conventions for many years and has also attended National Conventions for the past 27 years. She volunteered at the three National Conventions held in Milwaukee in 2000, 2010 and 2022 and was honored to serve as

a driver for the American Legion Auxiliary National President two times as well as the American Legion National Adjutant.

Donna and Wayne have been married for 55 years and have two daughters and two granddaughters who are all members of the Legion Family. She has belonged to St Bernadette Catholic Church for over 50 years and has sung in the choir for over 30 years. Her professional career included working for Northwestern Mutual and Travelers Insurance Companies for combined over 35 years and she retired from Travelers 15 years ago. Her faith, family and desire to serve veterans are all very important to her.

Donna has the support of her family, endorsements from her unit and county, and will seek endorsement from the district at spring conference. She is grateful and humbled and asks for your support for the opportunity to serve as Department Chaplain.



Donna Jensen

Joanie Dickerson for Central Division National Vice President

In the spirit of service, not self, Joanie Dickerson offers herself as a candidate for Central Division National Vice President. She is a 67-year Paid-Up-For-Life member of the American Legion Auxiliary and is eligible for membership as the result of her own service, that of her late husband, her grandfather, father, and brothers.

She is an active member of Liscum Brothers Unit and Post 482 of Bagley, serving as Unit Treasurer and Post Finance Officer and was instrumental in the recent chartering of the Post's Sons of the American Legion squadron. Joanie has held numerous chairmanships for the district and department, currently serving as the Executive Director of ALA Badger Girls State, and is a member of the finance and leadership committees.

An active member of St. Mary Parish, she assists where needed and retired as a middle school educator in their school after 22 years. Joanie continues to serve on the local level as a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary where she coordinates public education activities for members of the boating public and verifies navigational aids on the Mississippi River. A long-time supporter of Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, she is a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, the Boy Scout Honor Society, is a religious award counselor and committee

member for Troop 88.

Joanie's husband Dee, sons, daughter, grandsons, and granddaughters are all members of the Legion Family. She has the support of her family, her unit, county, and district. If elected, Joanie will commit to sharing her talents and skills to work on the national level and strive to support members across the Central Division as they work to accomplish our mission. She will encourage all members to share their knowledge, skills, talents, and dedication with each other and the people we serve as we continue our commitment of service for those who sacrifice for our freedoms.

It is with a humble heart filled with gratitude for this opportunity, and prayers for your support, that Joanie Dickerson offers herself as a candidate for Central Division National Vice President for the 2027-2028 administrative year.



Joanie Dickerson

Maggie Geiger for Central Division National Vice President

Maggie Geiger wishes to announce her candidacy for the position of the American Legion Auxiliary Central Division National Vice President.

Maggie is a 21-year member of Peter Wollner Unit 288 of the American Legion Auxiliary in Cedarburg, Wisconsin. Her eligibility is through the service of her father, Herbert "Buck" Masters, a WWII Army Veteran. Maggie has been an active member on the unit, county, district, and department levels, serving as Department President 2023-2024. She has served the Department of Wisconsin on numerous committees, in chairmanships, and officer positions.

While Maggie was president of Unit 288, they were honored to receive the National Presidents' Award of Excellence 2013-2014.

Currently, she serves as Ozaukee County President, 2nd District First Vice President, Poppy and Legislative Chairs, Department Standing Rules Chair, Distinguished Guests Chair, and serves on the National Executive Committee.

Maggie has also attended National Mission Training sessions and is a graduate of the Legion College. She has been a presenter at Midwinter sessions and ALA In The Know. In addition, she served on the Department Strategic Planning committee. Maggie understands the importance of keeping members informed,

which is vital not only at the departmental level but also at the national level.

Maggie and her husband Brian have been married for 50 years, and they have two children and four grandchildren, who are all members of the American Legion Family.

Serving on the National Executive Committee, working alongside other departments has given her a strong insight into the needs of members within the organization. Maggie would be honored to be selected as the candidate for Central Division National Vice President and represent Wisconsin through a strong sense of commitment and dedication.

As an American Legion Auxiliary member, Maggie proudly volunteers and supports The American Legion and the entire American Legion Family. We are the strongest when we serve together!



Maggie Geiger

FEBRUARY SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

1	\$25	Lahni Palmer	Walworth
2	\$15	Karen Pursell	Lodi
3	\$15	Susan Meyer	Kewaskum
4	\$15	Darlene Meyers	Howards Grove
5	\$15	Ann Marty	Blanchardville
6	\$15	Cynthia Faller	Plymouth
7	\$15	Maureen Greuel	New Holstein
8	\$25	Susan Worlund	Marshfield
9	\$15	Dawn Dunlap	Milwaukee
10	\$15	Bonnie Mengel	Horicon
11	\$15	Lillian Brewer	Las Cruces NM
12	\$15	Christine Bowen	Watertown
13	\$15	Sherri Gysbers	Fond du Lac
14	\$15	Yvonne Lee	Birchwood
15	\$25	Jean Sennhenn	Columbus
16	\$500	Heidi Fischer	Hatly
17	\$15	John Neumann	Wild Rose
18	\$15	Sheree Chadoir	Neenah
19	\$15	Catherine Sieckman	Platteville
20	\$15	Julie Plautz	Greenwood
21	\$15	Donna Bennett	Mayville
22	\$25	Ursula Recore	Whitelaw
23	\$15	Monica Gifford	South Milwaukee
24	\$15	Jacky Gertschen	Marathon
25	\$15	Connie Peterson	Woodman
26	\$15	Nancy Dammen	Argyle
27	\$15	Laura Van Swol	Hartford
28	\$15	Ruth Much	Tigerton

JANUARY SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

1	\$500	Victoria Boerst	Mayville
2	\$15	Delores Guzman	Plover
3	\$15	Terry Manke	Cumberland
4	\$25	Judy Riedel	Pittsville
5	\$15	Celeste Leider	Waupaca
6	\$15	Cynthia Heindl	Delavan
7	\$15	Gloria Shire	Milwaukee
8	\$15	Linda Flanagan	Argyle
9	\$15	Randy & Linda Johnson	Plymouth
10	\$15	Rose Christian	Watertown
11	\$25	Jim Bartelt	Marshfield
12	\$15	Christine Krueger	Marshfield
13	\$15	Nancy Plier	Jackson
14	\$15	Nancy Beggs-Willoughby	Stevens Point
15	\$15	John Neumann	Wild Rose
16	\$15	Dolores Wilson	Janesville
17	\$15	Mary King	Plover
18	\$25	Rose Christian	Watertown
19	\$15	Shirley Golonka	Oconto
20	\$15	Kim Luell	Beaver Dam
21	\$15	Sharen Hammes	Bangor
22	\$15	Carol Esteves	Oak Creek
23	\$15	Annamarie Johnson	Wisconsin Rapids
24	\$15	Nancy Boos	Fort Atkinson
25	\$25	Karen Blashka	Manitowoc
26	\$15	Lena Tainter	Gays Mills
27	\$15	Dennis White	Fort Atkinson
28	\$15	Betty Dietzman	Ridgeway
29	\$15	Sue Raab	Auburndale
30	\$15	Mary Sevedge	Milwaukee
31	\$15	Denise Pelzel	Maiden Rock



Nathan Bond
Department
Commander

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

LEGACY FORWARD: PERFORMING OUR DUTY TO COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATION

I have had the privilege of traveling Wisconsin these past few months, visiting Legion Families in every corner of our state. Everywhere I go, I see Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders fulfilling our duty to Community, State, and Nation through strong, visible programs that truly make a difference.

Our Americanism programs are especially impressive. Wisconsin Legion Baseball remains one of the strongest programs in the nation, and our Softball program is quickly gaining strength and recognition. Americanism and Government Testing is underway, and reports indicate participation remains high. Badger Boys State sponsorships are still coming in, with more young men registered than at this time last year—please keep those sponsorships coming. The Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy is gearing up once again, and I expect another outstanding class. Our support of Scouting remains steadfast, and many counties have already conducted successful Youth Government Day events. We also received high praise from one of our Youth Shooting Sports participants, Holly Elsinger of Slinger High School, in her “Athlete of the Week” spotlight—thank you, Holly, for representing us so well.

Our National and Homeland Security programs are also thriving. Troop and Family Support grants are being managed wisely, helping numerous veterans get through periods of economic hardship thanks to your generosity. Our Blood Donor Program is working diligently to ensure the blood supply is adequate for daily needs and emergencies.

Post honor guards are performing military funeral honors and flag ceremonies across the state nearly every day, and we are close to being fully up to date with TACOM on ceremonial weapons and displays.

Local Legion Families are working hard to support children and youth, both within the military community and across Wisconsin. Our American Legion Riders are dedicating much of the funds raised during their “Cruise for a Cause” to the Veterans & Children Foundation. I have also seen clothing drives, food collections, and school supply efforts in many posts and communities.

Closest to my heart is our work in Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. Camp American Legion, our VA hospitals, and WDVA veterans homes are receiving meaningful support from members who give generously of their time, talent, and treasure.

My encouragement to all of you is to keep up the great work—and to remember there are many ways to perform our duty. Your contributions to like-minded organizations are commendable. My request is this: whenever you conduct fundraising, please make sure our own American Legion programs are included. Baseball, hospital volunteers, the Oratorical Contest, dignified burial for unclaimed veterans’ remains, scholarships, the Children’s Wellbeing Foundation, and many other state and national programs depend on us.

To learn more and to find easy ways to support these efforts, please visit: www.wilegion.org/make-a-difference-1.



Sue Hembrook
Department
President

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hopefully, we are edging our way past the gripes of winter and spring is near. Midwinter Conference was a huge success with the largest attendance since 2020. The joint Family session was very well attended and those in attendance commented favorably on its content. The Legion Family is a powerhouse! So much can be accomplished by working together to promote our programs. Working, and yes even “playing” together, will accomplish so very much to support our military and their families, our veterans and even our communities. The camaraderie at Midwinter Conference proved that we are a united force. We may all operate in slightly different modes, but our focus is united.

Currently our military and their families may need our support. Communicate with your respective Senators and Representatives to ensure our military are being supported during these unsettling times. The way to do this is to sign up for the Grass Roots communications. This can be accessed on the Legislative Program page of the department website. The Coast Guard especially needs our support as their operations fall under the direction of Homeland Security. Their pay is issued by that agency and is separate from the other military branches. Please, if you have a Coast Guard station in your community, reach out to them to see how you can support the members and their families. This branch of service is essential to our national security.

Spring conferences are starting to happen and that is a great time to attend to business, but more importantly to interact with your fellow members. Please try and attend the spring conference in your district. If you can, attend a spring conference in a neighboring district to find out what they are planning, too. Sharing is what we should be doing, for by sharing with one another we can get fresh ideas that may even lead to joint projects. Most importantly, you can get to know other members. We have a large department and getting to know one another will help us to better support our programs.

Also, it is annual report time!! Hopefully you will all embrace our new reporting system. It is designed to make the reporting process easier and to ensure that your reports are received by department and the respective chairmen in a timely manner. Report, Report, Report!! It is important and please do not forget to send those pictures!



Christopher Dannenmann
SAL Detachment
Commander

SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

“Determine never to be idle. No person will have occasion to complain of the want of time who never loses any. It is wonderful how much may be done if we are always doing.”

– Thomas Jefferson

Congratulations to you all for your doing these past six months. Not only have we chartered seven new squadrons, but we also have as many as nine new squadrons in the pipeline-ready for charter submission to the Department and then on to National for their approval. This is an unprecedented achievement! Special thanks to all of the Post, District, Detachment, Blue cappers and dual members for making it happen.

National Commander Bill Clancy had a great time seeing firsthand our Detachment membership in action with Operation Comfort Warrior. Whether called OCF, Freez’n for a Reason or something else,

Commander Clancy is determined to make this a national priority. So, well done everyone.

Our ALF Dogs were put into service this winter. They stand ready whenever and wherever they are called upon to comfort the loved ones of our service members, protecting freedom.

Now that winter is almost over (they just issued a blizzard warning), let’s not forget about the food pantries and blood banks that run low at this time of the year. It’s also time to reconnect with your fellow members. The District Conferences are coming up, and your input is needed. The Spring DEC at Headquarters in Portage also gives leadership the opportunity to hear from you.

Let’s all keep track of the difference we are making here and across our Great Nation. Report all of your Squadron activities on your CSR’s. Please send them into Detachment by June 1st so Congress can see what the Sons of The American Legion do to strengthen the Four Pillars of The American Legion.

Where there is a need, there is a Son.



Corey Doehrmann
State Director
American Legion
Riders Association

LEGION RIDERS DIRECTOR

Fellow Wisconsin American Legion Family members I am looking forward to summer, are you? Does your post/unit/squadron have some big plans for this year? The 7XX plus member of the Wisconsin American Legion Riders are no different. We are looking forward to getting our bikes out for some rides both supporting Legion programs and just to socialize as fellow Legion Riders.

There are several Legion Riders from Wisconsin who will be participating in Sojourn 250 which will escort the U.S. flag from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C. July 4th when our nation celebrates its 250th birthday. This is no ordinary flag. The flag our Riders are entrusted to bring to the nation’s capital will have traveled the world – 26 countries in all – flying over the graves and memorials of U.S. heroes buried in cemeteries under the American Battle Monuments Commission’s care. The final leg of that international tour begins at the national headquarters of the National Flag Foundation in Pittsburgh. (<https://nationalflagfoundation.org/sojourn-250/>)

If you are receiving this publication and enjoy riding a motorcycle or

trike, we’d love to have you join us. You must be a current member or eligible member of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of the American Legion. Additionally, be a registered owner (member or spouse) of a motorcycle of at least 500 cc and lastly, hold a current motorcycle endorsement (member or spouse).

Our mission is to participate in parades and other ceremonies that are in keeping with the aims and purposes of The American Legion. Promote motorcycle safety and provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share the same interests while promoting and supporting the programs of The American Legion. We are not a motorcycle club. We are a group of American Legion Family Members who ride for a cause. We have local causes within each district and at the state level we support larger programs. (<https://www.alrawis.org/>)

The Wisconsin Legion Riders – Cruise for a Cause, ‘Family First – 26’ is coming up in June. See article in this publication for more info and registration link.

If you have any questions about the Wisconsin Legion Riders don’t hesitate to contact me: Corey Doehrmann/State Director, cell 262-305-0305 or email at alrawi.director@gmail.com. Our next meeting after this publication will be at 1PM on May 9th at Legion Post 175 in Loyal, WI.

Veterans Crisis Line



DIAL 988
then **PRESS 1**