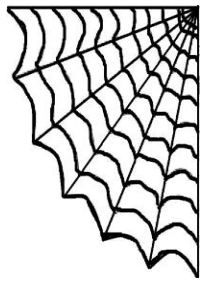




# Bi-Monthly Unit Mailing October 2023



This mailing includes:

- Department President Maggie Geiger's Newsletter
- 2022-2023 National Awards list
- Greetings from Department Headquarters
- ALA's FUN (Midwinter) session attendance form
- 2024 (The American Legion) Midwinter registration form
- 'What is The Legionnaire Insurance Trust?' flyer
- ALA Badger Girls State article
- AEF article
- Education article
- M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan Fund article
- Historian's article
- Membership article
- 2024 Unit Officer ALA MIS access registration form
- Poppy program article
- Public Relations article
- VA&R article
- VA&R: Service to Veterans
- VA&R: Homeless Women Veterans grant program article
- VA&R: Christmas Gift Shop article
- VA&R: Hospital Volunteers
- Hospital Needs Lists: Chippewa Falls/Dayton Care/King/Madison VA/  
Minneapolis VAMC/ Oscar G. Johnson VAMC/Tomah VAMC/Union Grove VH/  
Zablocki VAMC
- Zablocki 'Baby Shower' donation form
- Veterans Day Card
- Redbook Corrections/Dates to Remember



### **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](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org)



# Department President Maggie Geiger



Department of Wisconsin | American Legion Auxiliary



## QUESTION CORNER

### **Do changes to a units Constitution and Bylaws, need to be read twice?**

If the proposed changes have been sent to members 30 days prior to voting and a copy is available for review at the meeting the changes will be voted on, proposed changes will only have to be read once, if a member requests a reading. Otherwise, changes can be voted, line by line or in its entirety.

For more information or questions, contact Dept. Chairman: Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan  
Pulvermacherjan004@gmail.com / 608-246-9707

### **We don't know how to get the American Essay contest into our local schools, Help!**

Contact Department Chairman Diane Burkhalter, for great ways to approach your schools.  
burkhalternl@gmail.com / 262-284-6873

Thank you for your membership in the American Legion Auxiliary! Enhancing the Lives of our Veterans, Military and their Families – One Day at a Time.”

Every member contributes to the success of their unit, volunteering, making in-kind donations, making baked goods, wearing branded clothing in your community, accepting the role of leadership, and pay your yearly dues. Are examples that no matter the level of participation is, your membership is valued and appreciated.

Many districts held their Fall Conferences and workshops sharing what their units have participated in and upcoming events, remember sharing is caring!

ALA In the Know held 3 sessions with approximately 200 members, many first attendees were also in attendance enjoyed learning about the importance of reporting, leadership roles and responsibilities. SAL Commander Allen Watry attended all 3 sessions explaining the SAL program and brought along an ALF dog.

Many of those who attended ALA In the Know asked for more opportunities to learn about the different roles and responsibilities of leadership and chairmanships at all levels. Please contact your district officers and let them know what questions you have, and we will make sure every district has the opportunity to hold an informational/leadership seminar.

What is your passion, what do you enjoy most by being an ALA member? Are you interested in trying a chairmanship, becoming a leader, perhaps you are interested in revising your units Constitution and By-Laws, whatever your passion or interests are, don't be afraid to ask someone to be your mentor. Not only will you learn information that can be shared by someone who has held a chairman or leadership position, but you will make a lifelong friend!

Please send pictures and a short description of activities your unit has participated in. Send them to department chairs, so we can share these with other units. Be proud of what your unit accomplishes!

Some People Dream The Dream, Some People Live The Dream, Some People Defend The Dream, God Bless The Defenders.

Thank you to all who have served, so we can enjoy our freedoms every day.

## 2022-2023 NATIONAL AWARDS ~

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin received the following awards or acknowledgements for the 2022-2023 administrative year during the 2023 National Convention:

### AMERICANISM

Dorothy Pearl Award - Most Outstanding Unit  
Americanism Program in Central Division

**Port Washington Unit 82 ~ District 2**  
Diane Burkhalter, Unit President

Americanism Essay Contest  
Class I, Best Essay in Central Division

**Ava Teclaw**  
Sponsored by Thorp Unit 118 ~ District 7

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

Best Department Community Service Program  
in Central Division

**Department of Wisconsin**  
Kay Grosskopf, Department Chairman

### LEADERSHIP

Unit Member of the Year

**Cathy Wilbur**  
Sponsored by Appleton Unit 38 ~ District 9

### MEMBERSHIP

Department 85% Goal Award  
Reaching 85% of the 2023 Dept membership goal by 3/15/2023

**Department of Wisconsin**  
Becky Mueller, Dept Chairman

Units that reached 100% of their 2023 membership goal by 11/10/2022

Bayfield Unit 49  
Two Rivers Unit 165  
Mt. Hope Unit 229  
Tigerton Unit 239

Cross Plains Unit 245  
Coleman Unit 280  
Winter Unit 303  
DeForest Unit 348

Birchwood Unit 379  
Adell Unit 462  
Saint Nazianz Unit 477  
Somers Unit 552

New Unit Award – New Unit Chartered by 7/31/2023

- Wild Rose Unit 374 (District 8)
- Land O' Lakes Unit 464 (District 11)

### POPPY

Poppy Poster Contest, Class IV  
Best Poppy Poster in Central Division

**Sela Meeks**  
Sponsored by Port Washington Unit 82 ~ District 2

### VA&R

Most Outstanding Unit VA&R Program  
In Central Division

**Port Washington Unit 82 – District 2**  
Diane Burkhalter, Unit President

### VAVS Meetings Perfect Attendance Card:

- **Pat (Joyce) Flanders, Hospital Representative**  
Tomah VA Medical Center, Tomah, WI
- **Sheila Frye, Hospital Representative**  
Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital, Madison, WI
- **Helene Stein, Hospital Deputy**  
Tomah VA Medical Center, Tomah, WI
- **Anna Wender, Associate Hospital Representative**  
Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center, Iron Mountain, MI

### Volunteer Recruitment and Service Award

*(for Largest Increase in Active Regularly Scheduled Volunteers & Volunteer Hours)*

- **Bonnie Jakubczyk, Hospital Representative**  
Zablocki Memorial VA Medical Center, Milwaukee, WI
- **Anna Wender, Associate Hospital Representative**  
Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center, Iron Mountain, MI



## GREETINGS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

Executive Secretary/Treasurer Bonnie Dorniak, [deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org](mailto:deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org)

HQ: 608-745-0124 ~ Website: [www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org)

**2024 RENEWAL NOTICES:** 2024 membership cards and rosters were mailed to every unit in July. National Headquarters sent 2024 Membership Dues Renewal Notices the week of September 15<sup>th</sup>. Units are reminded they should forward dues to Department promptly. Membership questions? Please contact Andrea Stoltz at department headquarters.

**2024 POPPY ORDERS:** The deadline for placing Poppy Orders is December 15<sup>th</sup>. If you need poppies, please order ASAP as last year we ran out of poppies and could not fill all of the requests. Units and posts are reminded they must submit a 20% poppy profit report from their last order before their new order will be processed. Poppy orders will be filled and shipped as soon as possible after they are received. Please verify the accuracy of your shipment upon receipt. If you need poppies by a specific date, please note that on your poppy order.

If you know any veterans who may be interested in making poppies, please contact Poppy Shop Supervisor Sue Hembrook at 262-945-9791 for details.

**2024 DAILY SWEEPSTAKES:** Entry forms for the 2024 Daily Sweepstakes must be mailed to Department Headquarters by December 31, 2023. This is ALA-Wisconsin's biggest (and only!) fundraiser. Although no donation is required, *contributions are appreciated* since proceeds support Auxiliary programs benefiting our veterans, military, and their families. Official rules are posted on the department website. Thank you to those who already sent their entry forms with a donation! If you want additional entry forms, please call Linda Cason at Department Headquarters.



**2024 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE:** The American Legion Auxiliary is planning a session for The American Legion's Midwinter Conference on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at the LaCrosse Center. Midwinter registration is \$25 prior to January 2, 2024 and \$30 after that. A registration form is included in this mailing. Please register to attend!

**2024 ALA BADGER GIRLS STATE:** ALABGS information packets will be mailed to sponsors in November for the 2024 ALABGS session. Units planning to sponsor girls should submit their reservation fees by January 31, 2024 and start working with their schools to select delegate(s). After Department receives the reservation fees, the schools will be notified as to how many delegates they may select so their students can register for the ALABGS session by the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. If a delegate is not selected, the unit may request a full refund by emailing Carrie Thrasher no later than April 15, 2024. After April 15<sup>th</sup>, a \$50 processing fee will be deducted from the refund. No refunds will be issued after May 1, 2024.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Information will be sent to schools reminding them of the many ALA scholarship opportunities available to high school students. Department and national scholarship applications will be posted on the department website. Units are encouraged to contact their local school(s) to promote the scholarships and to provide their unit contact information, so students know how to complete the required 'certification of unit sponsorship' section. Please encourage eligible students to apply!

**2023-2024 RED BOOKS:** A complimentary copy of the 2023-2024 Department Red Book was mailed to Unit and County Presidents with a current 23-24 Unit officer form on file and Department Chairmen. The Red Book is also posted on the Department website as a *free* resource for any member. Additional books may be ordered for \$6.00 while supplies last using a Unit Supplies Order Form (found on the Dept. of WI website under the forms tab).



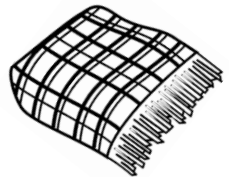
**2024 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE  
 AUXILIARY SESSION ~ JANUARY 20, 2023 (9:00 am – 1:00 pm)  
 RADISSON HOTEL ~ WISCONSIN ROOM 102  
 200 HARBOR VIEW PLAZA, LA CROSSE, WI 54601**

Come join the American Legion Auxiliary for a **FUN** session at the 2024 Midwinter Conference!

The session will include **FUN** projects to benefit veterans at the VA Hospitals and Veterans Homes supported by Wisconsin. Department Adjutant Julie Muhle will also motivate everyone in attendance with her presentation, "React or Respond!" Finally, the session will close with a round table discussion / Q&A segment.



Participants will make tie blankets and are asked to bring men's athletic socks and small toiletry items for the Socks of Love project. The ALA will also conduct a Winter Clothing Drive during the session, so please bring **NEW** men's and women's winter hats, gloves/mittens, scarves, and socks for our veterans in need in Wisconsin.



9:00 am	Opening Ceremonies
9:15 am – 10:30 am	Veterans Project (Tie Blankets)
10:30 – 11:00 am	"React or Respond," Department Adjutant Julie Muhle
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Veterans Project (Socks of Love)
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Round Table Discussion / Q&A Session

To participate in the ALA's **FUN** session, you must also register with The American Legion for the 2024 Midwinter Conference and pay the registration fee (\$25 by January 1st, \$30 afterward). A registration form is included in this unit mailing.



**Please return the bottom of this form by January 1, 2024** if you plan to attend the ALA's **FUN** session so we can ensure we have enough supplies for everyone.

**Email form to: [deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org](mailto:deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org) or mail to: ALA-WI, PO Box 140, Portage, WI 53901-0140.**

- YES! I plan to attend the ALA's **FUN** session at the 2024 Midwinter Conference!
- YES! I would like to help make Tie Blankets for Veterans.
- YES! I would like to donate items for the Socks of Love (athletic socks and/or small toiletry items)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ District #: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*I understand that to participate in the ALA's **FUN** session, I must also register for the Midwinter Conference with The American Legion and pay the registration fee.*

# 2024 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

JANUARY 18-21, 2024

LA CROSSE CENTER

300 HARBORVIEW PLAZA ~ LA CROSSE, WI 54601

## REGISTRATION FORM

Pre-register for The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin 2024 Midwinter Conference by returning this registration form and \$25.00 per person (1 person per registration form) to Department Headquarters by January 2, 2024, and **save \$5.00!** Registrations received after January 2, 2024, will be \$30.00 per person. Or register online at [wilegion.org](http://wilegion.org).

*(Please type or print clearly in order for your badge to be printed correctly- List your name how you wish it to be printed on your badge)*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBER ID # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_ POST \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ SQUADRON \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	NO	PRICE	TOTAL
Registration Fee (only one per form)		\$25.00	
Reg. Fee After 1/2/24 (only one per form)		\$30.00	
Recruit the Next You Celebration Check here if you are a new recruit. <input type="checkbox"/>		\$40.00 (RSVP By January 2, 2024)	
Recruited by: _____			
<b>Total Enclosed</b>			

**Make check payable to The American Legion, or Enter Credit Card Information Below**

Cash  Check # \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Card Type \_\_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. Code \_\_\_\_\_

Return to:

The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin

Attn: Midwinter

P.O. Box 388

Portage, WI 53901

or email to [angela@wilegion.org](mailto:angela@wilegion.org)

# WHAT IS THE LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST?

We're inspired by the community of veterans still serving in America.

For over 55 years, the Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been delivering peace of mind and financial support for veterans, their families, and the Departments of the American Legion.

We craft benefit programs that help veterans protect what they value most.

## The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT)...

Provides products and services to protect Legion members and their families since 1966



Paid benefits to Legionnaires and their families of over \$1 billion



Provides financial support of nearly \$95 million to support state department activities and VA&R efforts



Provides financial recognition for departments' innovative membership development efforts



**Visit TheLIT.com**  
to see the programs and services available to you.



LEGIONNAIRE  
INSURANCE TRUST

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NOW  
AVAILABLE  
IN YOUR  
STATE



Endorsed by Your American  
Legion Department

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IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION FOR LEGIONCARE

**UP TO \$5,000.00**

**NO-COST-TO-YOU ACCIDENT INSURANCE PROTECTION**

For Online Activation Visit: [TheLIT.com/LegionCare2](https://TheLIT.com/LegionCare2)

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
BADGER  
**G**irls★  
S T A T E



One of the questions I get asked by Units sending a delegate to ALABGS is “How can we help them?”

The simplest way you can help them is to save up change to give to them for the Penny War Competition. All proceeds go to the ALABGS Scholarship. Every delegate who completes the program is eligible to apply for the scholarship.



**The Rules of Penny Wars at ALABGS:**

1. Pennies are positive- so delegates should put pennies in their county's bucket.
2. Silver/Paper are negative- so delegates should put silver/paper in OTHER county's buckets.
3. Whoever has the most points gets prime location seating at our Inaugural- a highly coveted prize.

**So How Can the Unit help?**

1. Collect change at your unit meetings (especially pennies!) and ask your Post to do the same at Legion meetings. If you start now, you should have at least a small amount by June.
2. Make sure the change then gets put in wrappers (our office ladies will thank you as we have to roll them before we take them to the bank)
3. Gift the wrapped coins to your delegate before they come to ALABGS and explain it's for the Penny Wars.







## 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.

The applicant must be an American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) member. Applicant must have maintained ALA membership for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years). Application must be received within 6 months of disaster. One grant per grantee in a 12-month period will be awarded.

An Auxiliary Emergency Fund grant may provide immediate emergency assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members in areas devastated by a natural disaster, such as fire, flood, hurricane, tornado, earthquake, or other severe weather. The applicant must have received damage to the primary residence and/or been displaced or evacuated from the residence and had out-of-pocket expenses for food, clothing, and shelter. Grants may be awarded up to \$3,000.

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](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org)) and National ([www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org)) websites for additional ideas and information.



## EDUCATION

**Diane Weggen, Department Chairman**

dsweggen@gmail.com ♦ 715-644-2668

The ALA in the Know workshops are completed, the new school year is well under way and fall sports season will soon be ending. It is important that our communities know who we are, what we do and why we matter!

**Who are we?** We are the American Legion Auxiliary, a community of volunteers serving veterans, military and their families and our communities through our ALA Education Program.

**What do we do?** Through our ALA Education Program, we carry out our mission: “to educate our citizens, mentor youth and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.”

We do this by:

1. **Promoting quality education** for children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs, and scholarships.
2. **Participating in the Give 10 to Education Program.** Check out the Give 10 to Education Suggested Donation Items and Tracking Sheet. Form can be downloaded from the Department of WI website under program info tab/Education.
3. **Participating in American Education Week**, November 13-17, 2023, to recognize and thank all who work to educate youth while building support from the public. Lack of an education of those joining the Armed Forces created concern for national security. The American Legion joined the National Education Association to co-sponsor the first American Education Week December 4-10, 1921.
4. **Working with our Legion Posts** to encourage schools to invite veterans to speak to students How to Organize a Veterans in Community Schools Event information can be found on the Dept of WI website under program info tab/Education.
5. **Supporting and promoting the Education Program and scholarships** of The American Legion Family [[www.legion.org/scholarships](http://www.legion.org/scholarships)].
6. **Providing scholarships** at all levels:
  - a. Unit/Post
  - b. Department [[www.amlegionauxwi.org/scholarships](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org/scholarships)]
  - c. National [[www.amlegionauxwi.org/scholarships](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org/scholarships)].
7. **Contacting legislators** to promote education and scholarships for our youth and veterans ([www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home](http://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home)).

**Why do we matter?** Through education we are able to complete the “To Do” list as stated in our Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary.

**For God and Country, the American Legion Auxiliary Education Program** supports veterans, military, their families and communities.

**Make an appointment** to visit with the superintendent, principal and/or a teacher to share the educational opportunities, especially scholarships provided by The American Legion Family.

Throughout the year, please call or email me with questions, concerns or when submitting pictures (**including information**) of Unit members participating in education activities.



# M. LOUISE WILSON EDUCATIONAL LOAN FUND

Diane Weggen, Education Chairman

dsweggen@gmail.com ♦ 715-644-2668

The purpose of the M. LOUISE WILSON EDUCATIONAL LOAN FUND is to aid women veterans, and the mothers, wives, daughters, granddaughters, grandmothers, and sisters of honorably discharged veterans to attain a higher education. This is an interest-free loan of \$800.00 which may be applied for annually and can be renewed for up to five years, for a total loan limit of \$4,000.00 to women enrolled in college on a full-time basis.

## GENERAL RULES:

1. Applicant must be a resident of the State of Wisconsin and a female member of the American Legion Auxiliary.
  - a. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary must continue until the loan is paid in full.
  - b. If membership is discontinued, no additional loans will be granted.
2. Applicant must be a graduate of an accredited high school with a scholastic average that would place her in the upper half of her class.
3. Application must include:
  - a. Copy of the Veteran's DD-214 discharge paper.
  - b. Certified copy of the applicant's school transcript.
  - c. Three letters of personal reference as defined on the application.
4. Successive loans may be granted upon approval by the Department Education Chairman, based on evidence of satisfactory grades. When additional loans are granted, the original loan will be cancelled and consolidated with the new loan.
5. Student must notify the chair upon graduation or withdrawal from full-time academic status.
6. Repayment of new loans originating after August 1, 2016, shall be made in payments of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) per month, starting within six months after the promissory graduates or ceases to be a full-time academic student.
7. The student and loan co-signer are legally responsible to pay the balance of the loan when due, plus any additional costs or legal fees if the loan is in default and referred for collection.

Thanks to the work of **PDP Joan Chwala**, this fund has assisted many ALA members for a number of years. Repayment of loans and donations keeps this fund viable. Education Chairman Diane Weggen is gladly accepting Joan Chwala's assistance.

Donate to the M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan Fund (form can be found on the Department of WI website under the forms tab - [www.amlegionauxwi.org/forms](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org/forms)).

**Citations will be awarded** (at Dept. Convention) to the Unit, County and District donating the most to the M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan Fund.

# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

*You've probably heard this before, but this is a variation of the verse...*

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God, which is why it's called the present. It's not happy people who are grateful, it's grateful people who are happy.

Welcome, Historians!

I am both happy and grateful to be serving with you this year, and I hope this will be a positive experience. Years ago, when I was asked to consider the District Presidency, a very wise woman said, "It is what you make it." Not quite sure what that meant at the time, it soon became crystal clear! If you assume it will be a chore, it will be. Consider it an opportunity and it might be among the best things you've accomplished.

Every writer has a particular style. Whether you're an old pro and comfortable writing or a newbie and a little less secure, here are a few points to consider as you begin...

- + Follow the rubric available on the Wisconsin website (Jr. & Sr): [www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org)
- + Be concise: Don't use 20 words where 10 will do, insert proper punctuation, and stay in third person.
- + Write, then walk away. Return to review and edit. Avoid falling in love with your words; it deters editing.
- + Ask someone to proof for you.
- + Tell a story and write from the heart.

I'd like to stay in touch, so if you are a historian, please email me the following:  
{If you are not a historian, but writing a history, please note that as well - President, member, etc...}

*Unit Historian:* Your name, Unit # & name and District #.

*County Historian:* Your name, the name of the County, and District #.

*District Historian:* Your name & the District #.

I am hoping to see a District history submitted from *every* District. Unit and County histories should be judged at your District Spring Conference, with the first-place winner moving on to Department.

I'll be creating a scrapbook for President Maggie and ask your help to fill it. Newspaper articles, pictures, flyers, etc. (scrapbook-size) will be a great remembrance when she has a minute to catch her breath after a fantastic year! If emailing, send pictures as jpegs for clarity. Snail mail is happily accepted as well!

Something new...Attn: Scrapbookers! In addition to your written history, consider crafting a scrapbook of your Unit, County, or District. They will be proudly displayed at Department Convention. Let your creativity shine.

Lastly, check the Program Engagement Plan (PEP) and watch for a memo coming soon.

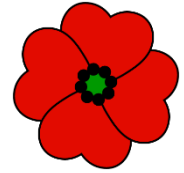
In the meantime, happy writing and crafting!



Mary Petrie, Department Historian  
[mmrtpetrie@charter.net](mailto:mmrtpetrie@charter.net) • 920-261-8161  
808 E. Cady Street, Watertown WI 53094



# MEMBERSHIP



Sue Hembrook, Department Chairman  
Email: [genesuehem@wi.rr.com](mailto:genesuehem@wi.rr.com) ♦ Phone: 262-945-9791

The Department of Wisconsin “Poppy Up” Team is in the race. As of September 20<sup>th</sup>, we are in first place in the Central Division.



Our puppies are holding up well and eagerly seeking out new members. It has been said that many units have been attracting quite a few new members. Remember, it is all of our responsibility to get out there to add to the team.

We can do this in so many ways. Wear your branded items, you would be surprised how this simple thing can be a conversation starter. Invite area communities to some of your events and build a relationship with other community groups. Spread the good word about our mission. Let people know about all we do for Children and Youth and our many other programs. Many in the community are unaware of our mission and compassion.

Have fun and let that fun and excitement radiate to others, it’s surprising how many will want to join in to be a part of that fun.

More importantly, when we get new members in our units, include them. Ask them for their ideas, or to help out at an event, make sure they feel wanted and accepted. Friendship is a two-way process, and not only will those new members become vital members of the unit; they may just become lifelong friends.

We need to retain our members by making them feel included. Members in nursing homes can be useful by cutting out coupons for the military. They can make out cards or letters for those military and their families stationed overseas. They too can be very beneficial to the projects your unit wishes to accomplish.

Of course, be mindful that their funds may be very limited so pay for postage or any other costs they may incur. If these members do have financial concerns, honor them by paying their membership if that is possible. We should honor their service and commitment by this token of paying their dues.

Remember that together we all make things happen, together we are strong and together we can do wonders!!

➤ **FIRST INCENTIVE AWARD DATE: VETERAN’S DAY-NOV. 11, 2023 - \$150.00 (2 Units)**  
(Future incentive dates and awards are located on the Dept of WI website under the Membership tab:  
[www.amlegionauxwi.org/membership](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org/membership))

If you have any questions or concerns, please know that the Membership Team is here to assist you. We would love to hear of your projects and events. Please know that we are here to support you in any way that we are able.

Membership Team:

**Sue Hembrook**  
Membership Chairman  
262-945-9791  
[genesuehem@wi.rr.com](mailto:genesuehem@wi.rr.com)

**Amy Luft**  
Committee Member  
414-651-7300  
[amyluft@gmail.com](mailto:amyluft@gmail.com)

**Becky Mueller**  
Committee Member  
920-464-0320  
[clarenceandbecky@aol.com](mailto:clarenceandbecky@aol.com)





**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN**

P.O. Box 140, Portage WI 53901  
Telephone: 608-745-0124 • Email: [alawi@amlegionauxwi.org](mailto:alawi@amlegionauxwi.org)

**2024 UNIT OFFICER ALAMIS ACCESS REGISTRATION**

American Legion Auxiliary Membership Information System

Access to the National Membership database ALAMIS (American Legion Auxiliary Membership Information System) is available to TWO current unit officers/chairmen per unit. Subscription is for **read only** access to the individual's unit. Two officers/chairmen per unit may register for access but they must have their own individual e-mail address.

The database runs in real time so that you can get the most up to date information. Look up new member ID#'s, view and print current rosters whenever you need to, double check to see who has paid or not paid, and more.

Those more computer savvy will be able to manipulate the information to print mailing labels or send out mass emails. Microsoft Excel is the recommended program to utilize the more advanced capabilities of the system.

Note-This is for read only access; you will not be able to change names, phone numbers, email addresses, drop, decease, or transfer members, etc., all these changes will still need to be submitted to Department Headquarters on a Member Change Form.

Any forms received as of October 1<sup>st</sup> will get the remaining months of 2023 for free.

The subscription fee is \$10.00 per person, per calendar year, January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 for read only access and each person must be submitted on a separate form.

**DO NOT ALTER THIS FORM IN ANY WAY**

Unit City Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ Dist # \_\_\_\_\_

Officer Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID# (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to: ALA Dept. of WI**

Enclosed is: \$ 10.00 Check Total (#4560) # \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number

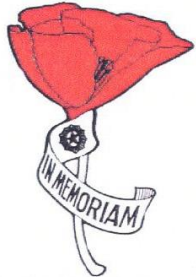
*A 25.00 charge will be issued for any bank returned checks.*

Please allow up to two weeks for processing.



## POPPY PROGRAM

Kay Grosskopf, Dept Chairman  
kkgros44@gmail.com ♦ 715-881-1843



American Legion Auxiliary

The poppy is the ALA symbol of sacrifice and remembrance. We remember the soldiers who sacrificed everything so we can live our lives free today. Anytime you wear a poppy, it's an opportunity to start a conversation. We need to educate those who are not aware of what the poppy stands for.

First, we need poppy makers. Encourage veterans to make poppies. Veterans who work through the ALA Poppy Shop at Zablocki get paid for the poppies they make. Everything is provided in a kit that they assemble. Auxiliary members can also purchase poppy kits from Emblem Sales and make poppies but they can't be identified as veteran-made. We need poppies to distribute! If you need poppies, get your order in by December 15, 2023. Due to a postage increase, if you can arrange to pick up poppies at Midwinter Conference, it would be very helpful.

Sponsor a Poppy Poster contest. There are seven classes from 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade including a level for special needs. There are criteria that must be followed or the poster may be removed from competition. Poppy Posters are due to this Department Chair by March 15, 2024.

There is also a Best Overall Unit Poppy Program. A typewritten narrative is due by April 1, 2024 and should not exceed 1,000 words.

Next is the Best Poppy Usage contest. If you use your poppies for other than distribution, document how they are being used and submit a report.

The Poppy Revenue award is based on the unit's income revenue in relation to the membership numbers. Make sure you send in the Unit Poppy Profit Report on time.

The Little Miss Poppy nominations are due by March 15<sup>th</sup> but don't wait! She should be keeping a scrapbook of her activities.

It's a ways off but make plans for National Poppy Day May 24, 2024 (always the Friday before Memorial Day). Have your city or village official sign a Poppy Proclamation.

For all of the above, document your activity and take pictures! There are more details in the Program Engagement Plan (formerly Program Action Plan) which will soon be available on the department website ([www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org)), along with other resources to promote the Poppy program. The national website for poppy information is [www.legion-aux.org/poppy](http://www.legion-aux.org/poppy). Make sure you get your award applications in on time and follow the guidelines. And always wear ALA identification – be it clothing or the badge. Let people know who we are and what we stand for.

We need each unit that distributes poppies to send in their report. Nothing is nicer than getting recognized at the Division and National levels for all the time and energy we spend helping our veterans.



## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Bob Shappell, Department Chairman  
[bobshap@aol.com](mailto:bobshap@aol.com)  
262-376-0348 (h) • 414-899-4067 (c)

Public Relations is much more than creating posters and advertising our events to the community. The function of Public Relations is to build and to maintain a positive image of your unit, your post, and the American Legion Family in your community. Your unit's reputation and image should be its greatest assets in gaining both community support and new members. People will respond favorably to what you say and what you do if you have a good image.

In today's society, we must adopt a fresh approach to telling the stories of our units and our members. We can no longer wait for the media to come calling; instead, we must become our own media. This does not mean buying a newspaper company or TV/Radio station. It does mean using the vast array of communication channels to our advantage.

It means effective and regular internal communications with our members. It means we become visible outside the confines of the Unit/Post home. That visibility translates into a form of communication media and can be a catalyst to recruiting new members. The way we look, act, and speak in the community creates our reputation and image. The new ALA brand mark is a great way to communicate who we are within our community. It also means smartly using all methods to communicate, from paper and voice to personal networking, and to various social media and electronic tools.

A good starting point for your unit is to ask several questions. Does your community understand the purposes and goals of your unit? What is the reputation of your unit in the community? How do community members (especially those new to the community) find out about the unit and its activities? If you cannot answer these questions, how would you go about finding the answers?

Your Public Relations Committee is committed to helping all Units answer these questions, and much more. We will gladly visit units or districts to provide snippets of training. We also plan on some virtual training. We will share good ideas from units around the Department. We will offer advice on PR activities or actions your unit is considering. We have great programs and great stories – let's make sure our communities understand who we are and what we do.





# Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Bonnie Jakubczyk, Department Chairman  
Email: bon6862@yahoo.com



'Enhancing the Lives of our Veterans, Military and their Families, One Day at a Time' is Department President Maggie Geiger's theme. A great way to get Poppy Up is to show your support for this Veteran's day. Attend or plan an event for them, make tray favors or thank you cards. Personal items have a huge effect on someone who receives them. Spending time with them can mean a lot to a veteran who just needs to talk to someone.

## GET INVOLVED

1. Support Wisconsin's Christmas Gift Shop, Homeless Women Veterans Grant Fund, and Camp American Legion.
2. Support the therapeutic rehabilitation and healing of veterans through arts, crafts, and hobbies.
  - Donate to and promote awareness of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (VCAF).
  - Support Creative Arts Festivals at local VA hospitals with time, supplies, and money.
3. Support veteran caregivers, family members, and survivors.
4. Volunteer at local VA hospitals and veterans' homes.
5. Check VA hospital wish lists and help where you can. Call the Hospital Representative for more ideas if needed. Monetary donations will also help to purchase needed items.
6. Promote Service to Veterans (outside of VA facilities).
  - Offer to sit with a veteran while the caregiver runs errands or run errands for the caregiver.
  - Transport veterans to appointments.
  - Contact a Veterans Service Officer - offer to be on the list of people to call when a veteran's family needs help.
  - Buy school supplies, host a baby shower, or send care packages to veterans' children who are headed to college.
  - Report Service to Veterans hours on the unit year-end report to the Department Chairman.
  - Submit the Service to Veterans hours award form to Department Headquarters to receive pins and hour bars.
  - Promote volunteer opportunities in community settings.
  - Collaborate with organizations that support veterans and their families.

## DEADLINES - IMPORTANT DATES

- Note: Submitting Mid-Year reports is optional but encouraged - November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- REPORTING - VA&R reports offer an overview of work carried out for our veterans. Reporting is mandatory for every Unit. If possible, include photos of special projects. If your Unit is not involved in this program, say so. That will serve as your report.
- March 15<sup>th</sup>: Submit Service to Veterans Hours Award form to recognize eligible members with Service to Veterans pins and hour bars.
- April 1<sup>st</sup>: Submit Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Award Cover Sheet with narrative for judging as Most Outstanding Unit Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Program to the Department Chairman.
- To be considered for a national award, the unit must submit their entry with a National Award Cover sheet to the Department Chairman. The National Award Cover sheet will be posted on the department website ([www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org)).

## RESOURCES

Check out Department website for more information: [www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org) or the ALA National website - [VA & R Program page](#). You will need a member account to see the information. There you will also find a Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation guide that you can download and print at no charge.

ALA Committee Facebook Groups are spaces on the social media network for ALA members to discuss or share about broad or narrow topics related to each committee. This group is a place to share service activities and events, ask questions, obtain information, and network for those interested in working the American Legion Auxiliary's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation program.

[www.facebook.com/groups/ALAVAR/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAVAR/)



This year, National President Lisa Williamson is trying to help raise awareness about the American Legion's Be the One campaign. Working as a family can make a better impact on this issue.

The No. 1 issue facing the veteran community is suicide, according to the **National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report**. It is estimated that between 17 and 22 veterans or servicemembers take their lives each day. That's more than 6,000 annually. The rate of suicide for veterans is more than 50% higher than that of non-veteran adults. As the Global War on Terrorism continues, there will be more veterans facing mental-health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

What will Be the One achieve?

At its core, The American Legion is activating a national platform to reduce the rate of veteran suicide. The Be the One campaign will:

- Destigmatize asking for mental health support, creating opportunity for those with mental health issues to speak freely and get the support they need.
- Provide peer-to-peer support and resources in local communities.
- Deploy FDA-approved therapeutics for veterans to identify issues and find resources for support.

I'm a spouse, partner, family member, caregiver, friend of a veteran, or interested civilian. What can I do to support this initiative?

The stigma associated with mental health issues is a barrier to veterans seeking assistance. They fear loss of their job, think they can handle their situation themselves, or don't believe others can understand their situation. Family members may be the first to recognize the signs that their loved one needs help, but they may lack the knowledge of how to approach the situation. If you have a family member, friend, business associate or have another connection with someone who is a veteran, The American Legion encourages you to Be the One to:

- Ask veterans in your life how they are doing.
- Listen when a veteran needs to talk.
- Reach out when a veteran is struggling.



## **VA&R – SERVICE TO VETERANS**

Linda Kostka, Dept Chairman  
[lkostka@ymail.com](mailto:lkostka@ymail.com) ♦ 715-685-1111

Service to Veterans means making a difference in the lives of veterans, their families, their caregivers and the communities where they live. Thank you to all the volunteers in the VA facilities helping veterans on a regular schedule.

But not everyone can provide direct service to veterans in a VA facility due to time or location. The Service to Veterans program focuses on direct service to any veteran not in a VA medical center and who is not related to the member providing the service.

We have other opportunities to help veterans by visiting with them or helping a caregiver with their responsibilities. You could take them shopping, bring them a meal, or even sometimes just pay for their meal in a restaurant. There are many programs you can volunteer for which honor veterans or provide items for them like Quilts of Valor. Don't forget to share your volunteer hours with your Auxiliary unit so the hours can be documented and consolidated at higher levels.



## **VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION**

### **Homeless Women Veterans Grant Fund**

Pat Smith, Department Chairman

Email: pms112ws@gmail.com • Ph: 608-786-4441

#### **WHAT CAN WE DO???**

So many little things are within your grasp. Each member could donate a quarter to Homeless Women Veterans Grant Fund at each meeting. Do that for maybe six months and then send your unit's donation to Department, using the Poppy Fund donation form found on the Department website under the forms tab. For the next few months earmark a different program. The donation is what matters... not the size of the donation.

Another idea would be to have a rummage/bake sale with a share of the profits designated toward HWVGF. Work with your local community schools and churches. Counselors and church leaders may be aware of women veterans and their families who need assistance. State on your posters that there will be a special after sale for those invited by their church or school. Or just donate the remaining items (such as clothes, coats, or games) to schools or churches. In this scenario, you really have no way of knowing how many served were actually veterans; if that is the case, report this activity on the community service report form.

As an Auxiliary member, be aware of the people around you, their needs and be kind. You never know the impact your actions could have on a person. The simplest act of smiling, saying "hello" or taking a few minutes to talk to them, may be the warmest gesture they experienced that day. Share the warmth and personal reward of caring for those who have not been as fortunate in life.

*"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." ~ William James*



## *Christmas Gift Shop 2023*



People have asked many times, “Just what is the ALA Christmas Gift Shop?” The answer is pretty simple! Since 1928, American Legion Auxiliary members have worked with various VA facilities and state veteran homes where veterans in long-term care facilities reside to give them an opportunity to give Christmas gifts to their loved ones. ALA volunteers work with the facilities to assist the veterans in making their selections, purchase the gifts, and wrap and ship them to the families.

Over the years, our Christmas Gift Shop has seen many changes. Many years ago, members used to donate items for veterans to select their gifts. Due to lack of storage for unshipped items, a change in the program became necessary. Today, orders are placed on Amazon.com, beautifully wrapped and shipped directly to the veteran’s families.

As this article is being written, Christmas Gift Shop season is almost upon us. It may seem early, but to ensure that all the gifts arrive in time for the Christmas Holiday, Santa’s ALA elves have a lot to accomplish in a fairly short time.

Many hours are spent browsing Amazon to find gifts for loved ones of all ages. Once the selection is complete, we create a catalog of the available items. After the veterans have a chance to make their selections, the items are ordered and arrive in numerous shipments. They are then sorted by the veteran’s order and made ready for wrapping day. Then, it’s off to the Post Office.

Without your generous donations, it would not be possible to provide the gifts, nor to bring smiles to these veterans who so bravely served our country. Although the Gift Shop operates two months of the year, you can make Christmas a year-round project by sending your generous donations whenever you can. Please use the Poppy Fund Suggested donation form (available on the Dept of WI website under the forms tab/[www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org)) along with your check to Department Headquarters anytime you have funds available. This program would not be possible without you!

Diana Sirovina  
414-881-9581  
[dsirovina@icloud.com](mailto:dsirovina@icloud.com)



Linda Bartell  
414-427-0238  
[bartell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bartell@sbcglobal.net)





## **VA&R: DIRECTOR OF HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS**

The Wish Lists are listed in this mailing. Please refer to them when putting together projects or donations. Please contact the Reps from the facilities before dropping anything off at any of our homes, facilities or posts. Many of our places have very limited storage space so an advance notice is much appreciated.

Most of our Representatives and Deputies have returned to their duties at our facilities. Some have different responsibilities but are so very glad to be back serving our veterans. If you are planning on visiting one of our facilities, please check in first, especially if you want to go in a group. We all have to remember that flu season is upon us, so some restrictions may apply. However, all are welcome to apply to volunteer.

If you wish to volunteer on a regular basis, you must register and be vetted. It is an easy process and it is such a rewarding experience. Each facility has its own regulations so please call your Reps or Deps for information.

Our veterans are so very excited to see all of you again. Your presence brightens their long days and the activities you direct are so anticipated in their daily lives. Every member should be able to see the smile on their faces and hear the appreciation in their voices. Our Representatives and Deputies are so very thankful for all of your support. Without your help in providing the monetary donations and all of the books, art supplies, blankets and the list goes on, our volunteers would not be able to perform the wonders they do for our veterans.

Keep up the good work of supporting our facilities, we need you and appreciate all that you do. You are all truly a blessing to our Veterans.

Sue Hembrook  
[genesuechem@wi.rr.com](mailto:genesuechem@wi.rr.com)  
262-843-4791 (h) • 262-945-9791(c)



## CHIPPEWA FALLS Veterans Home 2023-2024 Wish List

### Suggested donations:

- Men's wristwatch both stretch and regular band
- Alcohol free mouth wash, and aftershave not gel
- Men's handkerchiefs
- Belts large and extra-large sizes
- Cordless razors
- Stuffed animals not too big
- Reacher Grabber Tool
- Shoehorns any size and kind
- Sweatshirts and or T-shirts
  - Plain/Basic colors
  - Sports - Packers, Badgers, Brewers, Twins, Vikings
  - Military - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force
  - All shirt sizes should start at extra-large and needing 3X and 4X
  - Sweatshirt and pant sets should be same size
- Basic candy and other treats.

I would like to request that Units send cards signed by your Unit for all holidays, cards can be put in one envelope and sent to the address below. We have many who receive no mail at the holidays.

Please contact the representative before donating items to ensure the item is still needed. Monetary donations for the Chippewa Falls Veterans Home should be payable to ALA-Wisconsin and mailed to ALA Department Headquarters, PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901-0140. Please use the 2023-2024 Poppy Fund Donation sheet #4416 (found on the Dept website [www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org) under the Forms tab).

All other donations should be sent to:

Chippewa Falls Veterans Home  
c/o Nancy Randen, Representative  
2175 E Park Avenue, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
Email: [naranden@hotmail.com](mailto:naranden@hotmail.com)



**Kenosha Outreach  
Dayton Care Facility  
2023-2024 Wish List**

The following are some items that we could use at the Dayton Care Facility. We appreciate everything that is done for us. Our craft club is up and running and the residents enjoy it immensely. Although we have quite a few craft kits, we are always in need of more. We could desperately use hats, mittens, scarves or gloves as we are fast approaching winter and there never seems to be enough to go around. Also socks and underwear are always a necessity, these items must be new.

Below are some of the general items we need:

Pre-Shave and After Shave lotion – alcohol free	Eye Glass Cleaner/Wipes
Liquid Soap	Stamps
All in One Shampoo/Body Soap – liquid	Men’s Hair Ties
Caps, scarves & mittens or gloves	Greeting Cards
Dental Floss	Chapstick
Denture Cleanser and Adhesive	Shoelaces
Deodorant	Handkerchiefs
Disposable Razors	Tissues
Foot Powder	Quarter Length Socks
Hairbrushes	Underwear (all sizes)
Hand Lotion	Batteries (all sizes)
Mouth Wash – alcohol free	Hand Sanitizer
Shampoo	Colored Pencils
Ink Pens	Pencils and pencil sharpeners
Lanyards	

We are also looking for any craft kits such as:

Paint by Number Kits  
Model Kits  
Any loose craft supplies

Please contact representative before donating items to ensure the item is still needed. Monetary donations for the Dayton Care Center should be payable to ALA-Wisconsin and mailed to ALA Department Headquarters, PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901-0140. Please use the 2023-2024 Poppy Fund Donation sheet #4412 (found on the Dept website [www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org) under the Forms tab).

Thank you for your generosity in supplying our veterans with any of the items that you are able.

Sincerely,

*Sue Hembrook*

Email: [genesuehem@wi.rr.com](mailto:genesuehem@wi.rr.com) ♦ Ph: 262-843-4791





## Wisconsin Veterans Home at KING 2023-2024 Wish List

### MEN'S ITEMS

- Short sleeve shirts – 2XL – 5XL
- Long sleeve shirts – 3XL – 5XL
- (Color) T-Shirts w/pockets – L – 5XL
- Zip up hooded sweatshirts – L – 5XL
- Long sleeve flannel shirts – S-5XL
- Zippered Fleece – L – 5XL
- Gripper socks – S-5XL
- (All Colors) socks – S-5XL
- Blue Jeans – all sizes
- Regular pants – 29x30, 40x30, 46x34 48x32, 48x34, 48x40
- Lounge pants (no bands on legs) – S-5XL
- Sweatpants (no bands on legs) – S-5XL
- Sweatshirt – S - 5XL
- (Elastic waist) shorts – 32-36, M-5XL
- (Wide) Shoes w/Velcro – 7.5 – 13
- PJ Tops – 3XL & 4XL
- PJ sets – 3XL & 4XL
- White Briefs underwear - L
- Boxers & Boxer briefs – L
- Long underwear (tops & bottoms) M – 5XL
- Summer sport shorts – XL - 4XL
- Spring/Summer/Winter Jackets – S – 4XL)

### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- Alcohol free aftershave gel & mouthwash
- Facial tissue (Kleenex or Puffs)
- Men's body wash (Old Spice preferred)
- Toothpaste (all brands-check for expiration date)
- Wallets – 2 folds & tri folds

### LARGE ITEMS

- Talking watches/clocks (for the seeing impaired)
  - For additional info contact Michele at 715-258-5586 x22513
- Park benches/trees
- Cans or bags of coffee (regular & decaf)
  - Thermal Coffee Carafes (3.8-liter stainless steel lined lever action)
- Large print playing cards/large print puzzle books
- Wireless headphones for TV viewing
- Store bought individually wrapped chocolate candy/healthy snacks/sugar-free candy/applesauce/fruit snacks

### WOMEN'S ITEMS

- (Plain & Casual) T-shirts – 2XL – 4XL
- Casual pants – 2XL – 4XL
- Casual tops – 2 XL – 4XL
- Summer pjs – all sizes
- Sweatpants – 4XL
- Sweatshirts/tops – M - XL
- (Regular/Wide) Velcro Shoes – 6-10 sizes
- Socks (all seasons)
- Hard sole slippers – 6-10 sizes

### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- Women's body wash (Dove preferred)
- Fragrance free lotions/hypo allergenic
- Facial tissue (Kleenex or Puffs)

### ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

- Expired food
- Household items
- Incontinence products
- Linens
- Medical Supplies
- Used greeting cards
- Used stuffed animals

### CASH DONATIONS\*

- \* Funds for Olson Hall activities
- \* Funds for Ainsworth Hall activities
- \* Funds for Special Care Unit activities
- \* Funds for MacArthur Hall activities
- \* Funds for Stordock Hall activities
- \* Funds for Holiday Cheer (all holidays)
- \* Funds for Home Exchange Activities

Please contact staff before donating items to ensure the item is still needed or if you have questions or setting up an appointment; contact Colleen Roemer at 715-256-2050 or email: [colleen.roemer@dva.wisconsin.gov](mailto:colleen.roemer@dva.wisconsin.gov) or Terry Heschke at 715-258-4247 or email [theresa.heschke@dva.wisconsin.gov](mailto:theresa.heschke@dva.wisconsin.gov).

### \*Cash Donations:

Donations in any amount are greatly appreciated Checks should be made payable to ALA-Wisconsin and mailed to ALA Department Headquarters, PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901-0140. Please use the 2023-2024 Poppy Fund Donation sheet #4407 (found on the Dept website [www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org) under the Forms tab).

Nancy Neuroth, Hospital Representative  
[nneuroth@gmail.com](mailto:nneuroth@gmail.com) • 715-281-4388



## **William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital, Madison 2023-2024 Wish List**

### **All Clothing needs to be new with tags**

- New Reading glasses (1.25, 1.50, 2.25 & 3.50 strengths)
- Kwik Trip gas cards
- Men's underwear (all sizes)
- Winter coats (XL – 5XL sizes)
- Large print crossword puzzles & large print/pictures coloring books

Please contact representative before donating items to ensure the item is still needed.

Monetary donations for the Wm. S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital should be payable to ALA-Wisconsin and mailed to ALA Department Headquarters, PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901-0140. Please use the 2023-2024 Poppy Fund Donation sheet #4405 (found on the Department website [www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org) under the Forms tab). Any questions, call 608-280-7178.

Sheila Frye, Hospital Representative  
shebrat73@gmail.com • 608-280-7178



## MINNEAPOLIS VA MEDICAL CENTER 2023-2024 Needs List

### Material Donation Suggestions for Minneapolis Veterans

Thank you for your interest in the needs of the Veteran patients treated at the Minneapolis VA Health Care System (MVAHCS). Please contact us 612-467-2050 or [vhaminvol@va.gov](mailto:vhaminvol@va.gov) with questions or to make a delivery appointment for donations.

#### **Hygiene:**

- Shampoo (travel size only)
- Body wash/Shower gel (Full or travel sizes)
- Deodorant (Full or travel sizes)
- Lip balm / Chap stick
- Fingernail Clippers
- Dental Floss

#### **Clothing:**

- Men's underwear: boxers or briefs (sizes: M, L, XL)
- Men's crew neck T-shirt undershirt (sizes: S, M, L, XL)
- Men's V-neck T-shirt undershirt (sizes: S, M, L, XL)
- Zip up Sweatshirts (sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL)
- Sweatpants (sizes: S, M, L, XL)
- Cross: Close-toe footwear or similar brand slip on washable shoes (Men's sizes 8-14)

#### **Food:**

- Snacks or candy, prepackaged single serve
- Bottled juice, 6oz – 12oz bottles
- Hot Chocolate, single serve packets
- Bottled water, 6oz – 16oz bottles

#### **Other Items:**

- Twin size quilts in patriotic colors/patterns, red/white/blue fabric or branch of service logos
- Baseball hats w/logos of branch of service, Veteran, or sports teams logos
- Tracfone or other prepaid phone (New) and monthly plan cards for prepaid carriers
- Universal chargers for android devices, iphones & ipads.
- Playing cards (jumbo sized – NEW only)
- Monetary donations and donations of gift cards are also accepted

We are not able to accept some items as donations and other items we are not accepting at this time due to storage capacity or infection prevention precautions. Please contact us if the items you wish to donate are not listed above.

#### **Items we do NOT accept as donations include, but not limited to:**

- Full size or partially used hygiene or personal care items
- Mouthwash with alcohol base
- Used clothing, shoes, blankets, furniture, appliances or other home goods
- Afghans or knitted/crotched lap robes, blankets or slippers
- Infant or Children's blankets, quilts clothing
- Used or pre-owned books/magazines
- Books/Magazines with improper content (violence, nudity, firearms)
- Used CD's/DVD's
- Used playing cards, including casino decks
- Homemade foods (cookies/bars)
- Over the counter medications or medical supplies
- Medical equipment (CPAP, catheter supplies, walkers, wheelchairs, hospital beds)
- Artwork or decor

Please contact representative before donating items to ensure the item is still needed.

Monetary donations for the Minneapolis VA Health Care System should be payable to ALA-Wisconsin and to ALA Department Headquarters, PO Box 140, Portage, WI 53901-0140. Please use the 2023-2024 Poppy Fund Donation sheet #4410 (found on the Dept website [www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org) under the Forms tab).

Jeanne Williams, Department of Wisconsin Hospital Representative  
[1108aa@msn.com](mailto:1108aa@msn.com) • 612-532-7248



# WISH LIST

**Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center**  
**325 East H. Street, Iron Mountain, MI 49801**  
**906-774-3300 x32780**

Voluntary Service at the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center partners with volunteers, donors and organizations to significantly enhance the Veteran experience. Your donations provide the supplemental resources necessary to support a large assortment of activities, programs and services for Veterans in our care. All contributions are used to support the needs of Veterans and are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (906) 774-3300 x32780. Thank you for your interest in donating to the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center to support Veteran care!

## IN-KIND DONATIONS

- \$25 Gift Cards for Gas, Food or Personal Items – BP, Shell, Krist, Holiday, Walmart, Meijer, Super One, Econo.
- \$10 or \$15 Gift Cards for Food – Subway, Taco Bell, McDonalds, Burger King, Wendy's, Culvers, Dairy Queen, Little Caesars, Dominos.
- Cell Phones and Pre-paid Minute Cards (Tracfone or SmartTalk)
- Jackets, Sweatshirts and Pants – Females, sizes M to 2XL. Males, sizes S to 5XL.
- Undershirts, Boxers, Panties – Male and Female, all sizes.
- Marq-Tran (Marquette) or City Cab (Iron Mountain) Transportation Vouchers
- Hard Soled Slippers – Male and Female, sizes 7 to 12.
- Baby Items – Monitors, Bibs, Burp Rags, Newborn Clothes, Pacifiers, Rattles, Toys, New Baby Books, Baby Blankets (not knitted), Baby Wipes, Diapers, Bottles, Diaper Bags and Breast Pumps.
- Walker and Wheelchair Bags – Varying sized bags (from 12"x5" to 18"x20") with Velcro tabs for attachment.
- Welcome Kits for Oncology Patients, Women's Veterans Program or new CLC Patients – inquire with Voluntary Serv.
- Neck Pillows, Blankets, Afghans
- Lap Desks (for laptop or books)
- Electric Shavers
- Reading Glasses
- iTunes Gift Cards
- Audio Books (CD or Cassette)
- Books of Forever Stamps

Monetary donations for the Oscar G. Johnson USVAMC should be payable to ALA-Wisconsin and mailed to ALA Department Headquarters, PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901-0140. Please use the 2023-2024 Poppy Fund Donation sheet #4411 (found on the Dept website [www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org) under the Forms tab).

**Below is a general list of items we CANNOT normally accept.** This list isn't exclusive, and all donated items are subject to review prior to donation.

- Home Baked Goods and General Food Donations
- Used Clothing (with the exception of like new, gently used winter coats or boots based on need and storage)
- Medical Equipment (canes, walking sticks, walkers, crutches, wheelchairs, electric scooters, hospital beds)
- Personal Hygiene Items containing alcohol (mouthwash, cologne)
- Used Technology (cell phones, iPads, iPods, laptops)
- Unused Medications
- Hard Cover Books
- Magazines older than 90 Days
- Eyeglasses

Please contact representative before donating items to ensure the item is still needed.

## ALA Department of Wisconsin

Anna Wender, Hospital Representative

[annhummingbird@gmail.com](mailto:annhummingbird@gmail.com) • 715-923-1353



# Tomah VA Medical Center 2023-2024 Veteran Needs

## Items:

- Clothing Needs:
  - Small and medium Men's sweatshirts and long sleeves
  - 2XL Pocket T-Shirts (colored)
- Decaf Coffee
- Visa gift cards any amounts
- Walmart gift cards any amounts

## Notes:

Any of these items can be donated in-kind and in any quantities. They will be distributed accordingly to the Veteran and/or program needs. Monetary donations are also welcome in any amount and we will be used to purchase needs.

Monetary donations for the Tomah VAMC should be payable to ALA-Wisconsin and mailed to ALA Department Headquarters, PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901-0140. Please use the 2023-2024 Poppy Fund Donation sheet #4406 (found on the Dept website [www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org) under the Forms tab).

When making in-kind donations, only new or gently used items will be accepted.

Personal care items are no longer needed, as they are being supplied by the Medical Center (i.e. shampoo, lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.).

All in-kind donations should be brought to or mailed to: Tomah VA Medical Center (135), 500 E. Veterans Street, Tomah, WI 54660. The office is located in building 407, room 1739. Office Hours are 6:00 am – 2:30 pm

All Donors should call Tomah VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement office prior to coordinating any donation drive or delivery to ensure we can accept the items as needs change – 608-372-1727

Please contact representative before donating items to ensure the item is still needed.

Helene Stein, Hospital Representative  
[stitchkeeper@hotmail.com](mailto:stitchkeeper@hotmail.com) ♦ 608-343-3008



## **WI Veterans Home in Union Grove – Donation Lists**

### **Boland Hall**

A monetary donation for \$1,300 to use towards the Boland Veteran Christmas Party scheduled for December 13, 2023. Would be to provide an entire meal for up to 70 veterans who can invite up to 2 family members and possibly musical entertainment for this special event.

Monetary donation of \$1,300 towards 4 Eat-Out-In Meals for Boland residents. The meals are usually ordered in advance from a local restaurant, so the veterans receive a special meal and is done periodically during the year for special occasions and/or holidays.

**Note:** If you send checks to ALA, Dept of WI, donation sheet, please mark Union Grove fund, specify for a catered meal to Boland.

### **Fairchild Hall**

Monetary donations to cover the cost of catered meals. We will use donation funds to cater a Christmas Party with gifts on either Dec 9 or 16 at Fairchild Hall.

**Note:** If you send checks to ALA, Dept of WI, donation sheet, please mark Union Grove fund, specify for a catered meal to Fairchild.

- Gift cards to Walmart, any denomination. Preferably individual per veteran, resident count presently at 36.
- Personal Care items for male and female veterans: body wash, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner.
- Snacks and treats - individually wrapped or packaged.
- Beverages of all kinds both regular and diet choices.

**Do not send funds directly to the facility.** It is suggested that Units fill out and submit the 2023-2024 Suggested Poppy Donation Fund Sheet (found on the Dept website [www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org) under the Forms tab)

Thank you to the ALA Units and organizations that have been gracious and generous contributors on a regular basis for our veterans residing in Union Grove. Together we are making a difference.

Respectfully,  
*Mary-Ellen Crandall*  
ALA Hospital Rep – Union Grove Veterans Home  
262-894-5420



**CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI V.A. MEDICAL CENTER  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN  
HOSPITAL NEEDS**

Item donations drop off hours are Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Voluntary Service office located at:

Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center  
5000 W. National Ave  
Building 70, Room C-16  
414-384-2000 ext. 41803

Call Voluntary Service first to see if your items are still needed at this time.

**Needed year round:**

**Toiletries:**

- Deodorant: men's and women's
- Regular size body wash, shampoo, body lotion, bar soap (Dove soap is appreciated)
- Chapstick or lip balm
- Puzzle books: word find, crossword, sudoku
- Reading glasses any strength
- Electronic handheld games (Solitaire, Yahtzee)

**Men's**

- New T-shirts (S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL)
- New sweatpants (M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL)
- New Athletic Shorts (M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL)
- New sweatshirts (M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL)
- New Athletic shoes (size 8-13)
- New sweatpants (M, L)

**Women's:**

- New underwear (size 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)
- New sports bras
- New sweatpants/yoga pants (S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL)
- New Athletic Shorts (S, M, L, XL, 2XL)
- New sweatshirts (M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL)
- New T-shirts (S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL)
- New Athletic shoes (6-9)

**Donations** for HEART PILLOWS @ \$20. We use a case of 10 a month and items for 2 baby showers. Monetary donations for wish list items.

Please contact Voluntary services or the Hospital representative before donating items to ensure the item is still needed.

Monetary donations for the Zablocki Memorial VAMC should be payable to ALA-Wisconsin and mailed to ALA Department Headquarters, PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901-0140. Please use the 2023-2024 Poppy Fund Donation sheet **#4404** (found on the Dept website [www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org) under the Forms tab).

**\*\*\* We are unable to accept the following:**

- |   |  |                           |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| Any Used Clothing (Shoes, Socks, & Undergarments) | Medical Equipment (to include beds, wheelchairs, walkers, etc) | Used Electronics          |
| Used Houseware items                              | Used Bedding/Blankets  | Off season clothes        |
| VHS tapes   | Baseball Cards   | Stamp or Coin Collections |

Bonnie Jakubczyk, Zablocki Hospital Representative  
Ph: 414-531-7890



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN**

PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901  
Ph: 608-745-0124 ♦ www.amlegionauxwi.org

**ZABLOCKI VA MEDICAL CENTER**

The Milwaukee VA will be hosting a baby shower for women veterans who are expecting or new moms. The items for this wonderful event are to honor our moms. Not only will they be given resources, but our hope is to also give them and their new baby(s) gifts. Zablocki’s goal is to have two baby showers per year, one in the spring and one in the fall. Donations will be used to purchase requested items for each shower.

Unit CITY location: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit # \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dist # \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (4404-Zablocki Baby Shower)



Mail your check payable to “ALA” and mail this portion of the form to:  
ALA Wisconsin  
PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901-0140

**A \$25.00 fee will be charged for any check returned by the bank**



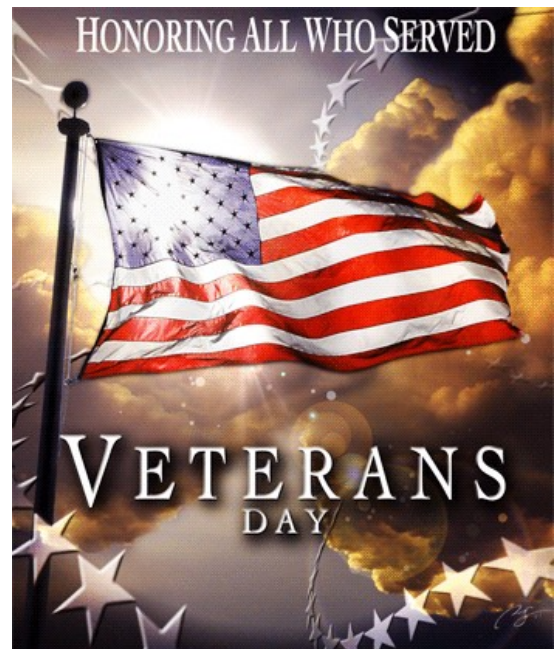


**Thank you for  
serving our  
country and  
protecting our  
freedoms!**

**Especially made for you from**



**American Legion Auxiliary**



**A time to Honor,  
A time to Remember**



## Red Book Corrections

Pg. 10 Replace Susan Middlestead with Donna Jensen as Milwaukee County President

Pg. 17 Update Mary Krutz's address – 8436 Wildwood Court, Waterford WI 53185

Pg. 43 Remove line #9

\*updated 9/29/2023

## DATES & DEADLINES

Last updated 9/29/2023

*(subject to change)*

2023		
DATES	EVENT	LOCATION
Oct 21, 2023	4 <sup>th</sup> District Fall Conference	American Legion Post #434, Oak Creek, WI
Oct 21, 2023	Make a Difference for Vets Fundraiser	American Legion Post #73, Neillsville, WI
Oct 21–22, 2023	ALA–Wisconsin Junior Fall Conference	Turning Rivers Youth Camp, Campbellsport, WI
Oct 28, 2023	6 <sup>th</sup> District Fall Conference	American Legion Post #70, Oshkosh, WI
Oct 28, 2023	8 <sup>th</sup> District Fall Conference	Mid–State Technical College, Wisconsin Rapids
Oct 28, 2023	11 <sup>th</sup> District Fall Conference	American Legion Post #318, Lake Tomahawk, WI
Dec 2, 2023	Unit 494 Jukebox Bingo Fundraiser	Racine Moose Family Center
FUTURE EVENTS <i>(subject to change)</i>		
Jan 18–21, 2024	TAL Midwinter Conference	LaCrosse, WI
Mar 23, 2024	Department Oratorical Contest	Ripon College, Ripon, WI
Apr 6–7 Apr 13–14, 2024	WI American Legion Auxiliary State Bowling Tournament (9–Pin Tap)	Medford, WI
Apr 13, 2024	7 <sup>th</sup> District Spring Conference	American Legion Post #51, West Salem, WI
Apr 20, 2024	3 <sup>rd</sup> District Spring Conference	American Legion Post #184, Fennimore, WI
May 4, 2024	2 <sup>nd</sup> District Spring Conference	TBD
May 18, 2024	Sweat4Vets Walk	Cedarburg to Grafton American Legion Posts
June 16–21, 2024	ALA Badger Girls State	UW–Oshkosh
July 10–14, 2024	Legion Family Department Convention	Appleton, WI
Aug 23–29, 2024	Legion Family National Convention	New Orleans, LA
July 2025	Legion Family Department Convention	Green Bay, WI
Aug 2025	Legion Family National Convention	Tampa Bay, FL
July 2026	Legion Family Department Convention	Appleton, WI
Aug 2026	Legion Family National Convention	Louisville, KY