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From the President's Desk

Service, not self is the tag line for the American Legion Auxiliary. However, this concept started well before the ALA was formed. It originated with the young men and women (often in their late teens early twenties) who joined the ranks of the U.S. military. These individuals took a leap of faith in our country and gave a portion of their lives to Uncle Sam. To protect the freedoms that we take for granted, they moved away from their family and friends, went to foreign lands, had new experiences (often not of a positive nature) and made sacrifices. Some giving the ultimate sacrifice to ensure our safety and way of life. Their service provided a foundation for their life and helped make them who they are today. We should remember these individuals throughout the year, but especially during the month of November. We are able to Thank them in person, share their stories/history with others and be a supportive family member. I for one am grateful for the people who took this journey, currently serving our country or considering the opportunity for their life.

Thank you, Veterans!

Kathy Olson

Dates to Remember

November – Military Family Appreciation Month

November 10, 2025 – Marine's Birthday (1775)

November 11, 2025 – Veterans Day

December 15, 2025 – Deadline to submit Poppy Orders

January 15-18, 2026 – 2026 Midwinter Conference – Oneida Casino Hotel, Green Bay, WI

Chaplain's Corner

District 2 Chaplain

Natalia Genovesi King

NOVEMBER

As we approach November 11th, a day dedicated to honoring and thanking our Veterans for their service and sacrifice, let us also take a moment to recognize that the entire month of November is National Veterans and Military Families Month. While we will certainly all find time to express our gratitude to Veterans on Veterans Day, this month invites us to extend our appreciation and support to the broader community of Veterans and their families, acknowledging their enduring strength and resilience throughout the year.

A Prayer of Remembrance and Gratitude

Source of strength and compassion,

We hold close the courage and commitment of every person who has served in our armed forces—those who answered the call with hearts full of dedication, risking everything for the safety and freedom of all. Their willingness to lay down their lives for their communities is the highest expression of love and sacrifice.

May we never forget the sacrifices behind the uniform—the hours spent apart from those they cherish, the sights and sounds of conflict that linger in their minds, and the deep wounds, seen and unseen, they carry. Though we may not fully understand their journeys, we trust that You see every burden, every tear, and every prayer whispered in the quiet. We ask that those who have served find rest and healing in Your tender care. Stir within us a spirit of gratitude that moves beyond words, inspiring us to serve others with the same courage and compassion.

We remember, too, the families who share these sacrifices—the parents who offered their last embrace before deployment, uncertain of what the future holds; the spouses who step into multiple roles to keep love and hope alive; the children who wait with unwavering faith for the return of their heroes. Their strength and resilience remind us that freedom is a collective gift, won through the sacrifices of many hearts intertwined. For those currently serving, standing watch in uncertain times, we ask for protection and provision. Surround them with your peace, guide their steps, and may this season of service deepen their connection to You, a source of hope and purpose that no circumstance can diminish.

Open our eyes, hearts, and hands, so that we may see the needs within our communities—veterans longing for dignity, healing, and belonging. May our voices rise in honor, our actions flow in kindness, and our generosity reflect the gratitude that fills us. Let us never be too busy or distracted to recognize the profound cost of freedom and to honor those who bear it with unwavering grace.

Amen.

Get to know your District 2 Officers

District 2 is made up of 6 Counties, 40 Units and 2,114 members (2025 paid memberships). The area ranges from Wisconsin Dells, Fort Atkinson, to Sheboygan and all the area in between. It is a far-reaching District. There are 9 officers that lead the District from all different Units. Let's get to know a little about these 9 officers. This month highlighting...

Sandy Mack is our Immediate Past President.

She has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for 15 years. Currently, she is a member of the Cedarburg ALA Unit 288. This is the only Unit that she has been a member of for those 15 years.

She also holds the position of Department Chaplain and ALAITK Co-Chair, District Leadership Chair, Ozaukee County Secretary and Unit 288 Secretary.

Previously she was Unit President; County President, Secretary, 1st Vice president, Membership, Community Service Chair; District President, 1st Vice President, and Membership Chair.

Sandy is eligible for the Auxiliary because of her father, Paul A Golabiewski. Who was in WWII in the Marine Corp.

Sandy has also participated in the Christmas Gift Shop, Honor Flight, Badger Youth Camp, Hometown Heroes, Sweat4Vets, Fish Fry's and many more.

She has attended the Department Convention for the past 10 years and National Convention for the past 3 years.

She enjoys taking trips with her family and baking cookies at Christmas with her girls.

Sandy has been married to her husband Howie for 50 years. They have 2 daughters, 3 granddaughters and 3 step-grandchildren.





SAVE THE DATE

This Veterans Day, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Foundation Board of Directors invites you to join us in serving those who served. Together, we can honor our nation's veterans by making a gift to the ALA Foundation's Veteran Projects Fund in tribute to the service members who have touched your life.



Through the Veteran Projects Fund, your gift becomes more than a donation; it becomes hope, comfort and care. Past grants have brought warmth to veterans' homes through new blanket warmers, provided tablets so isolated veterans could stay connected with loved ones, and even built safe transitional housing for homeless veterans and their families.

When you donate on Veterans Day, you're standing beside us in turning compassion into action, ensuring that veterans receive the respect and support they deserve.

Give online [here](#) or text VETERAN to 1-844-940-3450. All honorees will be listed in the February 2026 issue of Auxiliary magazine. Learn more about the Veteran Projects Fund at www.ALAFoundation.org/grants.

On behalf of the ALA Foundation Board of Directors, thank you for honoring our heroes and joining us in truly serving those who served.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Cathe".

Cathe MacInnes

American Legion Auxiliary Foundation President

Legislative

District 2 Legislation

Maggie Geiger

Celebrate Veterans on their day by continuing to advocate for issues and legislation that supports our entire Military/Veteran community. A great way to honor their service and sacrifice.

All members are encouraged to sign up for Action Alerts and read the Grassroots newsletters. Did you know that non-members can also access Action Alerts and make their voices heard? Help them advocate for veteran issues also.

Consider signing up for your specific legislators' newsletters and other publications and surveys. You can find out more about them either on the web or request a Blue Book from your local state representative.

Wisconsin 250 Challenge is being activated. Each member/unit is invited to join in this activity. This challenge's purpose is to increase awareness and advocacy in the legislative area. Each quarter a contest will be held to determine which District has "bragging rights" for the most contacts made in that time. Our first quarter will be in the months of October, November, and December 2025 with reporting due January 15, 2026. 2nd quarter will include January, February, and March; 3rd quarter will include April, May, and June. Winners will be announced for each quarter and will receive recognition at Department Convention in July.

Please send Becky Mueller your number of contacts in the following format either via email, text, or snail mail – your preference. I suggest you send them each month after your unit meeting, if possible. I am sure your District President and District Legislative Chair would like this information also. Remember to include this in your annual reports. Thank you.

Please reach out with any questions, accomplishments, and ideas to:

Becky Mueller N7737 Miller Rd, Black Creek, WI 54106

clarenceandbecky@aol.com cell/text 920-464-0320

WISCONSIN 250 CHALLENGE

Legislative Contact Reporting Form Month of _____

Unit # _____ District # _____ City location _____

_____ Emails, Phone calls, Letters sent to legislators during current month.

_____ Personal contacts made i.e.: visits to offices, town halls, sponsored events.

How to Host a Meet the Candidates Night

Committee: Legislative

Contact Information for Questions: legislative@ALAforVeterans.org

Encourage and empower members to be more knowledgeable to act on The American Legion's legislative priorities.

Step-by-Step Instructions: A "meet the candidate" night is a question-and-answer session where **all** candidates for a specific election are invited to answer questions. It is not intended to be a debate.

Suggested Date of Event: 2-3 weeks before elections.

3 Months Prior to the Event

1. To make this a Legion Family event, work with your Legion post, SAL squadron, and Riders chapter (if applicable) to form a planning committee. If this isn't a Legion Family event, the unit Legislative chair and unit president should appoint a planning committee. Identify the place, date, and time for the event. Map out a plan to get the word out to the general community. Think about whether you'll serve refreshments; will they be donated or do you need to buy them? Set guidelines for candidates before the event about literature, political signs, and handouts.
 - o If the place is the post home, ensure you have approval for the space and it's on the calendar. Determine if your post allows political material (like signs) to be displayed on post property.
2. After the candidate filing deadline has passed, pull a list of candidates from your state's election board or Supervisor of Elections' website. Prepare a spreadsheet of all ballot-ready candidates (local, state and/or federal) who will be invited. List their name, address, phone, email, party, and office. Allow ample time to contact them and receive their response.
3. Mail and email invitation letters with Legion Family Point of Contact name and the deadline date to reply. Remember: The Legion Family is nonpartisan, so you need to invite **ALL** candidates. Follow up periodically with candidates who have not replied. Suggest to the candidate that they send another representative if there is a conflict in their scheduling.

2 Months Prior

1. The planning committee arranges for volunteers for the following roles:
 - o Moderator (1) – Someone impartial and ideally not a part of the Legion Family, such as local news reporter or radio host or someone known and respected by the community. Using someone on TV or radio also ensures that it will be announced on TV/radio.
 - o Timekeeper (1) –To keep everyone on track. Each candidate should get an equal amount of time each round.
 - o Legion Family Ambassadors (Several)–To staff a table on programs and services your Legion Family offers. They should also have membership applications on hand.
 - o Servers (Several) – Have a small team of volunteers serve refreshments.
 - o Crowd Control (Several) –Volunteers to ensure that no attendee gets out of control. (Legion Family Sergeants at Arms might be great for this role).

- Screeners (Several) - Volunteers to collect and review questions from attendees. Selected questions will be given to the moderator for a Q&A period. *Note: Candidates can stay after talking with people and address their issues.
 - Public Relations Coordinator (1)–Someone who will ensure that event is advertised in local newspapers, social media, websites, and any other media outlet. They might invite a radio station or local TV station to stream the event live. (They might form a team to help promote the event on social media, create a hashtag, etc.).
2. The planning committee sets an agenda and how the event will proceed. Depending on the number of candidates in attendance, allow time for opening and closing speeches for each (this could be 2 to 3 minutes). After opening speeches and introductions, the moderator will ask for questions (that have been screened).
- If question is to a particular candidate, allow 1-2 minutes for the answer and allow opposing candidate the same amount of time. There should be no rebuttals!
 - If it is a general question, the moderator can ask any candidate to address, but again only 1-2 minutes per candidate.

Day of Event

1. Set up the room with the candidates in front of the audience.
2. Prepare tent cards for all candidates with their name, party, and the office they're seeking. You may wish to seat candidates alphabetically to not show favoritism.
3. Set up a table to talk about the programs and services your Legion Family offers. They should also have membership applications on hand and other Legion Family branded information.
4. Setup a table for voter registration¹. Members of your Americanism committee might be good to man this table, or you can invite an outside organization, like the League of Women Voters to help with the voter registration.

After the Event

1. Follow up with thank you notes to all the candidates who participated.
2. If media did not attend, work with your Public Relations chair to send pictures to be published and posted on social media.

American Legion Family USA 250 Challenge

Celebrate the nation's 250th Birthday by taking part in The American Legion's USA 250 Challenge.

More information will be coming on this Challenge, or you can go to the following website to register and learn more.

<https://www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/usa250/challenge>



Membership

REMINDER - County Presidents contact your Units and Unit Presidents contact your members to keep the membership numbers rolling.

This year's membership theme is "National Park Service".

The 2nd District's National Park is **Denali**. Membership will be calculated for each Unit, County and District.

Units can begin having their members pay their 2026 membership dues. Dues can either be paid over the phone by calling National direct @ 317-569-4570 (Mon.-Fri. 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.), online by logging on to the National website at www.ALAforVeterans.org, or they can pay their membership chairperson at their Unit.

Encourage early payment of membership dues to be eligible for a Unit "Navigation/Compass" Award. Membership dues must be at Department Headquarters PRIOR to the goal date to be considered eligible and the Unit must have the 2025-2026 Unit Officer Form submitted to Department with officers' dues paid to be eligible. One Unit will be awarded \$100.00.

75% is paid by September 15, 2025 – **winner Berlin Unit #340, District 6**

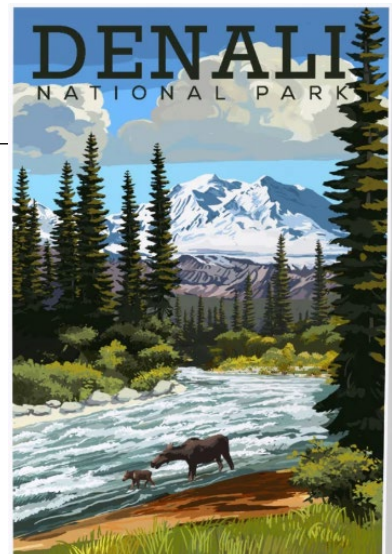
85% is paid by October 15, 2025 – **winner Coleman Unit #280, District 9**

95% is paid by November 15, 2025

100% is paid by December 15, 2025.

There is also a "Park Pass" Award. If a Unit has 100% membership dues to Department Headquarters PRIOR to December 31, 2025, you will receive 2 entries per Unit or January 31, 2026, you will receive 1 entry per Unit. The Unit must also have their 2025-2026 Unit Officer from on file at Department Headquarters. The "Park Pass" Award will be one winner, selected at random on February 14, 2026, to receive:

- Two Paid Department Convention registrations
- One paid room for a 2-night stay at the Hilton Appleton Paper Valley Hotel
- Two passes for Saturday night's (July 18, 2026) Commander's party
- Special Convention recognition.



100% UNIT		2026 Membership processed as of 10/21/25						
		UNIT	CITY	2026 GOAL	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT
02	Columbia	0062	Columbus	16	0	10	10	62.50%
		0187	Wisconsin Dells	38	1	27	28	73.68%
		0208	Rio	32	0	28	28	87.50%
		0215	Pardeeville	39	1	30	31	79.49%
		0216	Lodi	40	3	21	24	60.00%
		0271	Poynette	25	0	10	10	40.00%
		0401	Cambria	48	2	41	43	89.58%
		Total		238	7	167	174	73.11%
	Dodge	0015	Juneau	67	2	14	16	23.88%
		0069	Mayville	85	1	60	61	71.76%
		0146	Beaver Dam	78	0	5	5	6.41%
		0157	Horicon	86	0	10	10	11.63%
		0270	Theresa	30	6	14	20	66.67%
		0347	Lomira	34	1	23	24	70.59%
		0420	Hustisford	17	0	8	8	47.06%
		0521	Fox Lake	98	1	58	59	60.20%
	Total		495	11	192	203	41.01%	
	Jefferson	0067	Lake Mills	51	0	33	33	64.71%
		0164	Jefferson	33	0	14	14	42.42%
		0166	Fort Atkinson	52	2	38	40	76.92%
		0189	Watertown	82	5	36	41	50.00%
		0233	Waterloo	39	4	21	25	64.10%
		0305	Johnson Creek	27	0	15	15	55.56%
		Total		284	11	157	168	59.15%
	Ozaukee	0082	Port Washington	70	2	40	42	60.00%
		0288	Cedarburg	159	8	100	108	67.92%
		0355	Grafton	155	10	91	101	65.16%
		0410	Fredonia	18	0	18	18	100.00%
		0412	Belgium	31	0	18	18	58.06%
		0457	Mequon-Thiensville	53	1	24	25	47.17%
		0470	Saukville	155	1	91	92	59.35%
		Total		641	22	382	404	63.03%
	Sheboygan	0083	Sheboygan	32	10	22	32	100.00%
		0145	Random Lake	20	1	10	11	55.00%
		0149	Sheboygan Falls	28	0	24	24	85.71%
		0243	Plymouth	135	3	90	93	68.89%
		0387	Franklin	53	4	30	34	64.15%
		0462	Adell	12	0	8	8	66.67%
		Total		280	18	184	202	72.14%
	Washington	0036	West Bend	32	0	7	7	21.88%
		0321	Germantown	39	13	19	32	82.05%
		0384	Kewaskum	75	17	42	59	78.67%
		0483	Allenton	88	8	60	68	77.27%
		0486	Jackson	82	2	41	43	52.44%
		0522	Hubertus	32	1	28	29	90.63%
		Total		348	41	197	238	68.39%
Total			2286	110	1279	1389	60.76%	