

1st District

District officers

President:

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1st Vice - Membership:

Carol Brady
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2nd Vice- VA&R, C & Y:

Mary Kohler
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Secretary:

Pamela Massman
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Treasurer:

Jill Gust
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Chaplain:

Joann Dewart
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"May your Journey always Lead you Home"

January - February 2025

A note from your District President

Happy New Year! I feel great about our District. We are falling behind on membership. If you need help with this please reach out to Carol or I and we can help you make calls. Please call all unpaid members to check in on them. They may not have paid due to unforeseen reasons or feel disconnected.

I love how the leaders are working with our UNA's. I feel communicating to one direct person back and forth is way better then calls from leadership from every direction. The feedback on this as been overall the same feeling. Great job team and units!

I would love to come visit some more units! I went to a joint Kenosha County Meeting in Twin Lakes where some updates were given with no power. Twin Lakes pulled together lanterns, heated food with no need for electricity, and candlelight on the tables. It was very fun for all. We had great conversation. Thank you Twin Lakes for being resourceful and so welcoming!! I hope to hear from more units and counties that I have not visited soon.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 494 (my unit) spearheaded a donation collection for Hurricane Helene in North Carolina. Many units and Walworth county jumped in to help. We raised just short of \$3000 and sent to them. They were extremely grateful and sent back a text message that many of the homeless veterans, specifically 2x were shocked there were items there size due to the generosity of Units and Walworth county in Wisconsin. Thank you soo much for making this work!!

District Camp Trip

I have scheduled a camping weekend open to all District 1 legion Family. You must be a member to come. Your kiddos are of course welcome. We can kayak, hike, scavenger hunt, and just sit around a fire with comradery. I have created an event on our District Facebook page. Please let me know if you would like to attend. The cost of the campsite will be \$20 per adult or couple. I have already booked the group campsite and started a sign-up. We have room for up to 30 people to tent camp. Please reach out to Crystal Shaw to sign-up. I have already paid for the group site, as they fill up well in advance. If you are not a camper but want to come for Saturday I will be putting together fun games, events, potluck sign-up, for everyone to enjoy and non-campers to go home and enjoy the comforts of their own bed bug- free. It will be at the Richard Bong state Park Campground July 25th-27th.



**District officers
Cont.**

Parliamentarian:
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[m](#)

Sergeant at Arms:
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Assistant Sgt of Arms:
Isabella Zenda
Jr member



Don't forget to check out our national website for fantastic webinars on each program. You can sign-up for the classes. Some are only 20 minutes long and are pre recorded.

Please make sure to check out our Facebook Group for many upcoming events around the District. They include meat raffles, smelt fries, Trunk or Treats, wine tastings and many more! Let's help each other out!

Membership

Happy Holidays, District 1 Diamonds. Hope you're all staying warm, safe and well.

This is a great time to call a unit member or maybe a unit member that is in a nursing home or homebound to see how they are doing.

Are you looking for a special gift for someone who already has everything? Or maybe you know someone who really wants to renew their membership but cannot afford it? Gift them a membership, pay their dues for next year. I'm sure they'll appreciate it.

The New Year means we must have renewed our membership to continue to have the benefits as a Auxiliary member.

At this writing, we have 15 units in our District that are over 80% ! I know that before the end of year, we will definitely be adding more as we have been !

CONGRATULATIONS to the following units for already reaching their 2025 goal :

#0021 Kenosha 121 %

#0102 Walworth 103 %

#0399 Okauchee 100 %

There are a lot of units that are a snap away from reaching their goal.

Outstanding Job Diamonds ! We are indeed shining !

If your unit is having problems with renewals, please call on me, I will be glad to help. Let's make sure that we contact any member that has not renewed. A personal call can make all the difference.

With your membership, we can continue to serve our veterans and support our troops and their families, our community and children and youth. By simply renewing your membership, it makes you a very

valuable member!

As we say goodbye to 2024, let's remember all the great things we have accomplished with our units and all the new opportunities that are yet to come.

I'm looking forward to a Awesome 2025 for us all in District 1 !

Many Blessings to you all,

Carol Brady

1st Vice/Membership Chair -District 1

bradybunch02@yahoo.com

414-573-6459

First District Combined Fundraiser for Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin

We will host a 9 pin bowling tournament at the Riverside Lanes in Waterford WI on Sunday March 23rd to begin at 12pm. Our Auxiliaries are asked to provide 1 basket per unit and 1 per county. We will need people to sign-up for shifts to sell raffle tickets and help set up as well. The legion will be in charge of team sign-ups. If you are interested in signing up to set-up, take-down, or sell tickets, please reach out to our VA&R Chair Mary Kohler at 262-949-8950. Come support bowlers as well! I have included the bowling flyer. Let's make a day out of it and cheer them on! We are also accepting financial donations. If you would like to donate money please make out a check, VOW in memo and send to Jill Gust, First District Treasurer 614 E. Juneau Ave. Oconomowoc, WI 53066

District Dues and Assessment Fees Reminder

At the Spring Conference of 2024, a change was voted on and passed. This change was that if no member from a unit was present at a district conference, the unit is responsible to pay the district the assessment of one registration fee which was \$15 for fall conference. Please make the check out to ALA First District and put assessment in the memo line. Please send to our District Treasurer Jill Gust, First District Treasurer

614 E. Juneau Ave.

Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Also District dues are due, please make out a check to ALA First District and send it to Jill as well.

If you do not like this change, your unit and counties are welcome to propose an addendum with reasoning, as well as proposed alternatives, to be brought to the Spring executive committee. Please email to our Bylaws Chair Yvonne y.knight@comcast.net

Meet some of your Leadership will be cont. In March

Upcoming events

2025 Midwinter Conference - January 17th- January 19th

End of Year Reports Workshop- February 22nd 2025, Pewaukee will host this year from 10am-12pm (go over reports and needed items, then time to start them and work on them with others)

2025 Spring Executive Board meeting- Saturday February 22nd, 2025 at Pewaukee Post 71 12pm

2025 - Sunday March 23rd - First District American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary combined fundraiser for Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin.

2025 Spring Conference - Saturday April 26th, 2025 to be held at Delavan Unit 95, hosted by Sharon Unit

2025 - First District Legion Camping Trip- Richard Bong State Park July 25th - 27th 2025

Calling for District Leaders

Our District still needs some more members to step up for leadership roles. Do you have passion for Americanism, Community Service, Education, Jr activities, Leadership, or Legislative,? If so please step up and help fill the seat. You can check our Department website under programs to learn about each of them and see if this is something you would like to try. I would like to have the committee chair speak at a conference to help educate our district on what they found out about the program and how we can work it. I would also like to remind everyone you do not have to be or have been any officer to fill this role. I look forward to hearing from members.

A NOTE FROM DEPARTMENT Americanism is attached.

There is a contest for Grand old Flag, please see attachment. It is also posted on our facebook group.

Kindest Regards : Crystal Shaw, District President



THE AMERICAN LEGION & AUXILIARY OF FIRST
DISTRICT JOINTLY HOSTING

9-PIN TAP BOWLING FUNDRAISER

TO SUPPORT VETERANS OUTREACH OF WISCONSIN
NEW COOLERS FOR THEIR FOOD MARKET

23 MARCH 2025 • 12PM-3PM

REGISTRATION OPEN 10:30 AM

HELD AT RIVER CITY LANES 730 CORNERSTONE
CROSSING WATERFORD, WI 53185

**\$30 PER BOWLER. (13) 6 PERSON TEAMS. DO NOT NEED A
FULL TEAM TO PARTICIPATE . CASH RAFFLES . WALK INS OK.**

**CONTACT TOM V TO PRE-REGISTER SELF OR TEAM @
262-620-5646 OR DIST1VICECMDR1@1DWILEGION.ORG**



**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**

You're a Grand Old Flag Challenge

February 06, 1906 You're a Grand Old Flag was written by George Cohan, one of the most popular patriotic song.

Here is your "CHALLENGE"

The best overall creative video will receive a certificate from your National Americanism Committee Team and a special gift from your Chairman.

One winner from each Division

Include your - Name, Unit Number, Division, Department

All videos will be posted when received

Divisional Chairman will pick the "Best Overall Video" in their Division.

Winners will be announced March 30, 2024

Visual quality

"Make sure your video is clean" means to ensure that your video footage is visually clear, with no unnecessary distractions or blemishes, including things like background clutter, shaky camera movements, poor lighting, audio noise, or any visual elements that might detract from the main focus of the video

Sharp focus: Ensure your subject is in focus throughout the video.

Proper lighting: Use adequate lighting to avoid excessive shadows or blown-out highlights.

Steady camera: Minimize camera shake by using a tripod or stabilization techniques.

Clean background: Keep the background clutter-free and relevant to the content.

Audio quality

Clear sound: Record audio with minimal background noise.

Proper microphone placement: Position the microphone close to the sound source for optimal audio capture.

Examples

Involve your Unit, District, Division, County, Department, The American Legion, SAL, Juniors, your local elementary (make sure you get permission from the parents to share the video) "Think out of the box".

Be Creative

2024 - 2025

Americanism Committee