



Department of Wisconsin
American Legion Auxiliary
8th District Newsletter
January 2026

Honor Our Country, Support Our Veterans



From the Chaplain: Dear Lord, as we enter a new year, please be with us as we work for our veterans, active military, youth, and community. Be with our military, especially those currently deployed. Hold our country in your hand and guide our leaders so we may live in peace.

Happy New Year: It's a new year and time to resolve to be an active part of the ALA. We do much for so many (and ourselves in doing for others). Let's really make an impact this year. And make sure you record and report all we do.

Thank you: Thank you to the units that invited me to their Christmas events. I was able to attend two. In my unit visits, I was privileged to hear six girls report on their Badger Girl week. They were all surprised what they learned, not knowing what to expect. Several girls shared how they plan to use this experience and run for city council or school board! They will do what they can to encourage next year's juniors to attend. Speaking of BGS, they now have 501(c)3 tax rating. This means if a donor (individual or business) would like to make a donation to this program, it is tax deductible. Let's get the word out.

MIDWINTER: Mid Winter is fast approaching. This year there are presentations specifically for any member who completes reports. In 2026 all reporting will be done online. Make sure you are ready for the change. Hurry and register now to save your spot. Registration increased to \$35 on January 1. See you on the 15th in Green Bay. If you see me, please introduce yourself to me so I can meet you.

American Legion Family Day: Looking forward, start making plans now to celebrate National American Legion Day the last Saturday in April. Department is encouraging everyone to participate in this event. This is a great opportunity to make your presence known in the community – Public Relations! And possible gain new members!! Let's make the day special. Tell the community Who we are, What we do, Why we matter.

Exec Committee profiles: My name is Betty Blume; I have been a member of Unit 469 of Marathon for 13 years. My husband is a Vietnam Veteran and a 47-year member of the post 469. My son is an Afghanistan Combat Veteran and a 14-year member of post 469. I have served our unit as Sergeant of Arms, Vice President and Unit President from 2015-2019 and 2023-2025. I am currently the Americanism Chair for District 8. As a lifelong member of the community, I was involved in 4-H, a member of the school's activity committee, taught Religious Education, and served as a sponsor for the church RCIA program. It was when my son deployed, I started a care package program and sent over 200 packages to 4 Combat Outposts in the Afghanistan regions. It was then that I requested an application to join the ALA. I love my country; I support our military and have great admiration for our Veterans. As a proud American I work to spread the spirit of the Red, White and Blue because "It's Cool to be Patriotic"!

Membership: As of the last membership report on December 17, Eighth District has slipped to **10th place** in the Department. This is disappointing news. We started the year strong but are sliding. Our overall goal this year is to add one – yes one new member per unit. That means we retain our current membership and find one more. I know in small towns this is not an easy task, but in larger villages and cities, you should be able to add one or more. Talk to your Legion members. Ask if their wife, daughter, mom etc. are members. When wearing your ALA apparel, start a conversation with the person next to you. Ask if they know who we are, what we do and tell them why we matter. Get them excited and ask if anyone in their family served. Be ready to tell them what your unit does. If they are not local, encourage them to join a unit where they live. Membership Chairs: If you haven't already, sign up and use the MIS (member information system). It will help you keep up with your membership. Cost is \$10/year.

I'm still looking to fill various Chair positions. If you would like to learn more about various programs of the ALA, consider taking one of these positions: Public Relations, Children & Youth. Legislative is filled by Fran Bender. Linda Tryczak works Community Service.

Around the District:

Members of Wittenberg Unit 123, Rose Popp, Donna Hull and Verna Wendler deliver gifts to residents at the Homme Home



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What's Up?

American Legion Post 391 has Pizza Nights returning Mondays January 26, February 23 and March 23. Serving begins 4:30 until gone. Bar is open. 322 Waupaca St. Fremont.