



WISCONSIN



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American Legion Auxiliary
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The official publication of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



JOANIE DICKERSON
Department
President

What a difference a year makes! The calendar is filling up with unit, county and district activities. It is wonderful to see everyone once again becoming engaged in service as a team. Spending time with members throughout the department at spring conferences was refreshing after such a long absence. I truly enjoyed hearing about all that units were doing to support the ALA programs and their communities during the pandemic. The "can do" spirit of our members didn't lag when lockdown orders were issued. Our members persevered to ensure those in need were still taken care of. Thinking of new ways to do things made it possible for members to continue their dedicated service while ensuring the health and safety of all involved. Thank you to all that stepped up and made a difference in the lives of your neighbors as well as our veterans, active military, and their families.

Annual reports are in and have been read. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the reports. I know it can feel like a burdensome task and I promise that has never been the

intent. We need to provide Congress with the numbers. The hours you spend supporting our veterans, military and their families are reported to Congress in the National Commander's annual report. It is through this report that our national leaders in Washington, D.C. learn of the enormous impact we have on the lives of our treasured veterans.

Dedication of The American Legion Family Cabin at Camp American Legion was a moving event. Two years ago I attended the groundbreaking ceremony at Camp for the new cabin, and it was an honor to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony. I pray you encourage veterans in your communities to visit Camp and make plans to spend time there for a week of R&R. They won't regret it!

Thank you to everyone who has supported me these past two years. It has been an honor to serve as your president. I will always treasure the memories of this time of Service, not self with you by my side. May your sails always be filled, and your course always be clear. For there are good ships, and there are wood ships, the ships that sail the sea. But the best ships, are friendships, and may they always be.

God bless you all and God bless America!

Linda Coppock
Dept. Chairman
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Have you ever been on a cruise ship and thought you didn't ever want to get off? Well, this "Member Ship" is just about done with the course set by our Commander in Chief, President Joanie Dickerson!

In the past year, "Membership WI" had few stops at ports as the pandemic forced us to continue to "sail the high seas and not drop anchor" at any specific location. However, some stops were necessary! Units in need of support were given a lifeline.

The 2020-2021 year ran into some rough waters, needing to find new ways to communicate with those stranded ashore. Continuing the course of holding round table discussions with units to share their best practices, Dane County President Karen Runk maintained continuous communications with the unit presidents of her county using conference calls! Outagamie County President Rose Heinz made contact via Zoom for her county meetings. Marinette County President Deanna Farley continued to send newsletters monthly, without fail, to

her members. District Six President Patti Westphal continued to make phone calls and send monthly newsletters even after major surgery, while recovering, and vacationing in other states! District Presidents made calls to unit presidents to remind them to send their 2020-2021 Unit Officer Forms in to be eligible for the department membership incentives. Requiring all officers to have dues paid early gave high goal ratings to Wisconsin early on in the national percentage goal reports.

Units reported making "Sailor Shout Outs" to members not only during the National Week of Sharing and Caring but especially during the winter months during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. "Shout Outs" were used as a reason for calling members

to remind them of dues renewals, wellness checks or just a friendly "hello." This must have worked for some units as there were reports of units gaining up to 10 new members this past year, as many as 19 during this two-year stint. Some units were not as fortunate. Reports of aged members passing away seemed to be continuous. One unit lost thirteen members this past year. Say a prayer for them as they regroup and try to recruit new members.

Before we depart, the best announcement of the year has to be the presentation of a new ALA Charter to Unit 165 in Two Rivers, 6th District! Even if we lose, we win! Congratulations to all the new Unit 165 members.

On behalf of my "Member Ship Team" Becky, Julie and Olivia, THANK YOU for all you do!

WELCOME TO THE LEGION FAMILY UNIT 165!



6th District President Patti Westphal presented the Charter to newly formed Two Rivers Unit 165 and installed the unit officers. (From left to right): Linda Lefky, Tracey Koach, 6th District President Patti Westphal, and Unit President P J Stephens.

In Memoriam: Violet Feldmann



Violet "Vi" Feldmann passed away on April 10, 2021 at the age 84. Throughout her life, she was involved in many clubs and organizations. Vi joined Ladewig-Zinkgraf American Legion Auxiliary Unit 243 in Plymouth in 1973 to honor the military service of her husband Howard, two brothers and a sister. She was actively involved with the Auxiliary and enjoyed attending Legion Family events at all levels of the organization. Vi served as Department President in 1992-1993.

SETTING A COURSE FOR THE FUTURE



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Becky Mueller
Department Chaplain
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Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing, know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

Psalms 100

My special Legion family, it is with sadness that I write my last article to you in this capacity but also with joy and thanksgiving. I want you to know how special you are. I have felt a special joy in connecting with you over the past few years as your Chaplain. It is a role that I felt a special calling for and will continue to pray for you and our organization.

Our Legion family has a special and unique bond – we work hard to make a difference in people's lives, especially our veterans, military, their families and our communities for God and our country. We understand sacrifice and service. We understand commitment and dedication. We answer the call without regard to personal time and cost constraints. We know love and acceptance are needed. We know all people have value. We practice the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy.

It is time for me to move on to other roles within our organization as for many of you. These next few months are when most of our officers are elected and/or appointed to new roles. Some will be stepping back; others stepping up. It is always hard to accept change, but my prayer is that we accept graciously and lovingly these role changes and continue to move forward to accomplish our goals and mission. I pray that God grants you wisdom and vision as you move into the plans God has ordained for each of us. Seek the Lord's guidance with joy and thanksgiving. Most importantly, don't forget to say thank you to those who have blazed a trail for you to follow, journeyed with you along the way, and those that will pick up the baton after you have run your course.

My special thanks to all of you and may God continue to bless you.

Now Thank We All Our God

by Rinkart/Cruger

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,

Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;

Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way

With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

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

May 28, 2021 was officially National Poppy Day. Units and posts that completed poppy distributions are reminded to submit their 20% poppy profit report to department headquarters as soon as possible. The remaining poppy funds can be used for the welfare of veterans, active-duty military, and their families where a medical or financial need is evident. The poppy profit report form can be obtained from the department website or by contacting Linda Cason at Auxiliary Headquarters. As a reminder, poppies can be distributed all year long!

The 2021 Department Convention is scheduled for July 15-18, 2021 at Madison Marriott West in Middleton. Many changes have been made in an effort to maintain the health and safety of those who attend. The Department Executive Board meeting, traditionally held on Thursday afternoon of convention, has been changed to a virtual meeting prior to convention. A special recognition program will be held on Thursday, July 15, 2021 from 3:00 – 6:00 pm in the Auxiliary convention hall. A tribute will be given for Honored PDP Berne Baer, district membership awards will be presented, and members can participate in a

Parade of Checks and meet National President Nicole Clapp. During the convention, a special Centennial Celebration will take place and department chairmen will give brief reports. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Auxiliary, visit with old friends and meet new ones. See the convention schedule on page 6 for more details. Registration is \$25, payable to The American Legion; registrations received after July 12th are \$30. The registration form is posted on the Department website. Because of the ongoing pandemic, attendees will need to follow the protocols established by the convention center and Dane County at that time.

The American Legion is hosting the third annual Celebration of Freedom at Department Headquarters in Portage on September 24-25, 2021. This is a state-wide Legion Family community event. This year's event will feature the 9/11 Never Forget Mobile Exhibit – 1,100 square feet of 9/11 history with tours given by 9/11 firefighters who will lead you through the attacks and the months and years that followed since that tragic event 20 years ago. The Celebration of Freedom will also have live entertainment by The Hounds, Road Trip, Alley Katz and West on 12; food and drink; static military displays; a blood drive; and more. Visit www.wilegion.org for details.

National Convention is August 27 to

September 2, 2021 in Phoenix, Arizona. Members interested in attending should contact Department Secretary Bonnie Dorniak at deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org for a registration packet. Per the National Organization:

The American Legion Family is focusing on creating a safe national convention experience for all who desire to attend. The ALA will follow the official guidance, precautions, and rules from the convention host city. Attendees will be asked to adhere to COVID protocols including daily temperature checks upon entering the convention center, social distancing, and wearing of masks. Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms within 14 days of National Convention, or who tests positive within 14 days of departure, are asked to stay home. All attendees must also sign a liability waiver to attend – the City of Phoenix accepts no liability and declines to indemnify anyone electing to attend the event. Attendees must register in advance through Department. Onsite registrations will not be permitted this year. At this time, the only events being cancelled are the Parade and Band Contest. The Commander's Banquet and States' Dinner will have a limited number of tickets.

Six ALA in the Know conferences have been scheduled for September and October 2021. Please see the registration form on page 6 for details.

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

Rose Heinz, Department Chairman
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The Auxiliary Emergency fund was established in 1969 by the National Executive Committee, as National President Marcella Davidson, Department of New Mexico, started this as her special project. It was funded initially through a generous legacy gift from Auxiliary member Helen Colby Small of Burlington, Wisconsin. Thanks to members of all 50 states, this fund is still going strong. This past year, funds reported were a bit less than the previous year.

The eligibility determination and administration of the fund is done at the national level. The eligibility remains the same as other years, one must be a member for a minimum of two years and have the current year's dues paid (a total or three years paid). Effective February

27, 2021, members should send their applications directly to National Headquarters. The grant amount stays the same at \$2,400.

There are two applications. The "regular" application is used to help defray costs for utility payments and help to avoid eviction. Along with the application you must submit copies of bills and or disconnection or eviction notices. The "expedited" application is used for weather-related emergencies or natural disasters that cause damage to your home. You must submit all pertinent documentation.

To apply for a grant, go to the Wisconsin ALA website at www.amlegionauxwi.org. Complete the online application, forward to National Headquarters for review by the AEF Grant Committee. If you need help completing the application, please contact me. Review the Auxiliary National Website, [\[forVeterans.org\]\(http://www.ALA-forVeterans.org\) and read the article before you begin the process. The website also lists specific requirements that must be followed.](http://www.ALA-</p>
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We, as responsible citizens and Auxiliary members, should be doing our part by being generous to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, as the results of this pandemic and natural disasters are truly affecting more and more members. Be sure to learn what you can about the program so that you can share information about AEF with your unit members. You can even make individual donations through the national website or write a check to "ALA," put "AEF" in the memo field, and send it to ALA-Wisconsin, PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901. As we continue to set the Course for the Future, we can contribute to this program to assist all our Auxiliary members in times of crisis.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Beth Puddy, Dept Chairman
Jbpuddy1987@gmail.com

It was incredible to read the unit reports this year and see how units continued with Community Service during the pandemic. Many units, whether they were able to do Community Service projects or not this year, reported they plan to make

missed events bigger and better this year and next!

Units have truly "set a course for the future for our veterans, military and their families." Events were held in new or different ways. The pandemic caused more calls to be made, and cards sent, in lieu of meetings. Nothing wrong with that!

Supplies were dropped at doorsteps for veterans and others in need. I am proud to report over 1,200 members reported participating in Community Service activities and projects in 2020. Those 1,200 members volunteered an amazing 62,000 hours and individually or as units spent almost \$72,000!!

American Legion Auxiliary 2021 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS
H. S. & ANGELINE LEWIS –
GRADUATE STUDENT – (1) \$1,000 AWARD
 No Applicant



H. S. & ANGELINE LEWIS – (5) \$1,000 AWARDS
 Kaitlyn Kunding, MarshfieldLoyal #175 – District 7
 Madeline Franzmeier, RosemountMelrose #439 – District 7
 Madeline Schultz, Green BayNew Holstein #124 – District 7
 Margaret Grethel, Coon ValleyCoon Valley #116 – District 7
 Ereik Gilbertson, MadisonMadison #501 – District 3

MERIT & MEMORIAL – (8) \$1,000 AWARDS
Adalin Macauley Scholarship
 Carissa Kneser, GermantownMonroe #84 – District 3
Eleanor Smith Scholarship
 Sarah Hagenow, Poynette.....Rio #208 – District 2
Pearl Behrend Scholarship
 Elizabeth Lomack, Kewaunee.....Kewaunee #29 – District 9
Barbara Kranig Scholarship
 Anna Ring, MazomanieMazomanie #437 – District 3
Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan Scholarship
 Adrienne Brady, Tigerton.....Tigerton #239 – District 8
Diane Duscheck Scholarship
 Dalene Sherburn, Wild RoseWautoma #317 – District 8
Harriet Hass Scholarship
 Mabelle Boehlke, ReedsburgBaraboo #26 – District 7
Merit Scholarship
 Ethan Harbridge, Fond du LacFond du Lac #75 – District 6

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS – (3) \$1,000 AWARDS
 Olivia Youngbauer, WhitehallAlma #224 – District 10
 Chelsea Rogers, ColumbusSun Prairie #333 – District 3
 Megan Bruch, Butternut.....Butternut #272 – District 11

VAN DEUREN MEMORIAL – (1) \$1,000 AWARD
 Bailey Malueg, CarolineMarion Post #198 – District 8

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY – MAXIMUM OF (3) \$1,000 AWARDS
Nursing:
 Alyssa Meyers, Cashton.....Ontario #467 – District 7
 Julia Peebles, MarionMarion Post #198 – District 8

Health Career:
 Kalli Erickson, Dunbar.....Pembine #461 – District 9

Child Welfare – (1) \$1,000 awardNo Applicant

ALABGS SCHOLARSHIPS
 No scholarships were awarded since the 2020 and 2021 ALABGS sessions were cancelled

WISCONSIN'S NOMINEES FOR NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS
Children of Warriors National President's Scholarship – National Winner (\$5,000)
 Mattigan Haller, Eau ClaireEau Claire #53 – District 10

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship – Wisconsin's Nominee
 No applicant

Spirit of Youth For Junior Members Scholarship – National Winner (\$5,000)
 Madelyn Wynveen, Howards GroveFranklin #387 – District 2

Junior Loyalty Scholarship – Wisconsin's Nominee (\$1,000)
 Brooke Blader-Lucht, Wautoma.....Wautoma #317 – District 8

AMERICANISM

Maggie Geiger, Dept Chairman
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Our ships were moored, main sails furlled, and ALABGS canceled, but this did not stop unit members from adjusting the sails and lifting the anchor. Cards and letters were sent to our veterans in nursing homes and VA facilities. Flag disposals were done in reverence performed at a distance. Units felt the eastward winds, flags and brochures were handed out to our youth to help educate them on the meaning of patriotism.

Memorial Day Remembrances were celebrated from afar, flags were placed on cemeteries as a small gesture of appreciation for our freedoms. Units stood in the crow's nest searching for ways to look outside the box to honor veterans on Veterans Day. Drive-through boxed lunches and signs of gratitude in yards dotted the horizon of many communities. Celebrations of veterans' birthdays heard fire trucks' horns that led the parade, with unit members following with balloons and

beeping horns!
 Units contacted schools, homeschoolers and other youth groups to encourage participation in the Americanism Essay contest. Participants were given certificates; winning essays received a monetary award, with six essays submitted to National for competition. Thank you to all the schools that allowed unit members to enter their doors during this time when most felt adrift in rough waters.

"I Spy You Fly" certificates were given to businesses and homeowners for flying the US flag and ALA comic books about the US flag were given to schools to pass on to students. Letters were written to editors of local papers, educating citizens about flag etiquette, as well as the meanings of Veterans, Memorial and Poppy Day. Many high school graduations were cancelled; those graduates who were entering the military were given honor cords of red, white and blue!

We look to the future as the true winds blow the main sails, steering us into our 100+ years, for God and Country, Service not Self.

BOWLING

Jenni Syftestad
Chairman/Tournament Manager
Email: syftes@chorus.net



Well, it was touch and go for a while – but the majority said, "let the bowling balls roll!" It was once again a great two weekends for our 9-pin bowling tournament. I hope every bowler had a great time and enjoyed their travels to Cedarburg.

Department Vice President Diane Weggen threw out the first ball and got the games rolling. The competition between the President's and Secretary's teams was won by President Joanie's team. This competition has always been fun! Final results: President's team (1778) and Secretary's team (1268).

Kelly Mann from Grafton Unit 355 rolled the highest single game of 300. That's a perfect game! Kelly also bowled the high series of 856. If you are wondering, this is a 9-pin tap tournament!

Well, it looks like Grafton overtook the tournament. However, these are only the first three places in each category. There were other teams that won also!

Our 2022 tournament will be in New London on April 2 & 3 and April 9 & 10. Hope to see you there.

To consider hosting a bowling tournament, we request 16 lanes and motels in the area. Please contact Chairman Jenni Syftestad for details.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS (top 3 places in each category)

TEAM:

- 1st Place – (2709) Bonduel Gals 3 Unit 217, Bonduel
- 2nd Place – (2671) Knock 'Em Down Unit 355, Grafton
- 3rd Place – (2570) Rack 'Em Up Unit 355, Grafton

DOUBLES:

- 1st Place – (1467) K. Mann/M. Keegan – Unit 355, Grafton
- 2nd Place – (1364) J. Omernick/L. Bertrand – Unit 355, Grafton
- 3rd Place – (1332) H. Adams/M. Schoonover – Unit 355, Grafton

SINGLES:

- 1st Place – (856) K. Mann Unit 355, Grafton
- 2nd Place – (764) J. Omernick Unit 355, Grafton
- 3rd Place – (743) D. Rittberg Unit 355, Grafton

ALL EVENTS:

- 1st Place – (2464) K. Mann Unit 355, Grafton
- 2nd Place – (2288) J. Omernick Unit 355, Grafton
- 3rd Place – (2236) D. Rittberg Unit 355, Grafton

2020-21 YEAR END DISTRICT REPORTS



1st District Report Lyllette Smith

Our First District has been busy in the past year, keeping everyone safe during the COVID virus.

We continued to have our Executive Committee Meetings and we had our Fall Conference in October of 2020 and our Spring Conference in April of 2021. Our project for First District was to collect money for the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight. This project was very successful, and we collected \$500 to pay for a veteran to fly to Washington DC, once the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight is back on schedule.

We have two counties that do not have County Presidents and we are working to find someone to take on the positions of County President for Racine and Kenosha.

We collected donations to purchase new flags, cases, and holders for First District. Our new flags are beautiful.

First District raised their dues by \$0.05/person, per unit, per year. This will help First District with any donations they give out yearly.

We are amazingly blessed with all our members. We have one amazing lady by the name of Jeanette "Tootie" Rausch who is 102 years old. Tootie drove from Wilmot to Delavan, by herself, to attend our 1st District Spring Conference on April 24, 2021. Thank you, Tootie, for being such a spectacular and devoted American Legion Auxiliary member!

God's blessings to all.



2nd District Report Amy Luft

Turbulent waters could not keep the Mighty 2nd District down. Our district sailed on and stayed the course for our veterans, military, their families and our community.

Membership started out strong by meeting the Department deadline of no "goose-eggs." Seven units joined the 100% Club: Columbus, Beaver Dam, Watertown, Port Washington, Fredonia, Mequon-Thiensville, and Kewaskum. With 2,506 members strong, our district was fortunate to not have any units disband this year. Recruitment is one of the strengths of 2nd District. Units reported that 17 new members joined.

2nd District ran a tight ship as we strived to stay connected with each other. Our six Zoom educational sessions allowed members to learn and engage with each other. A monthly district newsletter was supplied to all units as well as our weekly Tuesday Tidbits, which helped keep members informed on the latest news. Unit, department and national information was shared on our 2nd District Facebook page which helped members stay informed.

Reporting was shipshape at 100%! All 44 units completed year-end impact reports. Units thought outside of the box when it came to fundraising, poppy distribution and advocating for our veterans. Even though many units did not meet on a regular basis, they were still able to work our Auxiliary programs. Units reported that over 29,000 hours were dedicated to veterans and military, and over 23,000 hours to community service. Members took the initiative to advance

their knowledge by attending Zoom meetings, county meetings and district conferences.

We learned to trim our sails and adapt to new ways due to the global pandemic. It was all hands on deck when it came to checking-in on our members. Sailor Shout-Out calls became a priority as a means for everyone to stay connected. Units learned the importance of keeping their guidelines (Constitution/Bylaws/Standing Rules) updated in order to operate efficiently, especially during challenging times.

The members of 2nd District are true leaders within our organization. Their work and dedication go above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to Service to Others, not Self. Congratulations, 2nd District on a job well done!



3rd District Report Deb Rottman

What a year it has been. When we had to cancel our Third District Spring Conference last spring, I did not think we would

still be dealing with COVID-19 a full year later.

This unfortunately changed the way we as an Auxiliary operated over the past year. For me, the hardest aspect was my inability to meet members from the Third District and across the Department of Wisconsin. I was looking forward to being able to put faces with names since I am still fairly new to the American Legion Auxiliary in Wisconsin. Those that I have met over the past few years have confirmed that my transition from Minnesota to Wisconsin was a good choice.

I was glad to hear in the county and unit reports at our Spring Conference that our units were able to continue to work to serve our veterans. It may not have been the same as years past, but we are on our way back to being able to do more again for our veterans and their families.

I am looking forward to the next year of my term where I hope we are able to move back to more in-person meetings and interactions, beginning with our summer picnic. I'm not sure about all of you, but the social aspect of the American Legion Auxiliary is very important to me.

I would like to thank the entire Third District for all of your hard work on membership this year. As a District, we have done very well in not so ideal conditions. I am so proud of the hard work put in by all members of the Third District in their commitment to working membership.

I am looking forward to leading all of you for another year and look forward to working with you for our veterans, active military and their families.



4th District Report Diana Richard

This has been my honor working with you all this past two years. The last year was a tough one for a lot of us, if not all of us.

I have really enjoyed being your President and it was good being able to at least talk to you on the phone. After calling 511 members with so many hardships, we laughed and cried together but we all made it! One of our members needed help with getting food after her surgery. One member lived just a few blocks away from her.

With one call she was off. She went to see what she could do to help. I enjoyed talking to each one of you. We all made sure that our veterans and their families were taken care of and kept our military in our prayers while in harm's way. What an honor this all has been.

The American Legion Auxiliary is now 100 years old! That is just awesome! As they say, we have come a long way and continue to be bigger and stronger for our veterans so keep up the good work!

The phone conference calls were great. It was one way to get to know other presidents if not face to face. I also learned a lot.

I am looking forward to Department Convention in July. It was so hard not having one last year, but things are finally looking up.

Keep working on getting new members and keep in touch with the members you have. Sometimes a phone call makes their day.

I have found that if I needed help there were so many wonderful Auxiliary members that were there to help. All you must do is just reach out.

God bless our troops and God bless America.



5th District Report Linda Bartell

This past year as all of you know has been very tough. Our meeting places have still not reopened. Spring Conference has

been postponed but hopefully we can have a Fall Conference. As a Unit and District, it has been difficult to impossible to physically support our veterans. Christmas cards were sent to all members in 5th District, thanking them for paying their dues or reminding them to do so soon. Also, to let them know President Linda was thinking about them during the holiday season.

Unit #1, Milwaukee – has a surplus of tray favors for the Zablocki VA as we continued to make them but were not able to deliver them. In the meantime, we were able to supply afghans and lap robes made by several of our members. The VA quarantined them (LOL) for ten days before distributing to the vets. They did accept toiletries, which we easily were able to do. We closely watched the bi-monthly mailings for anything other units/facilities needed for the veterans. The call went out for facemasks for the Dayton Care Facility, and we jumped on that. There was a Facebook posting from Post #294 for fleece fabric for the Soldiers Angel Blanket Project which was to be held in Hartford.

Unit #331, North Shore – due to the pandemic they were not able to meet.

Unit #406 – Their Post Commander passed away during this time.

Unit #448, Women Veterans – is being worked with to see if we can recruit members and/or have more members pay their 2021 dues. If this does not work, disbanding is a sad possibility.

Unit #455 – has not had a Unit President in over a year and sat idle though they maintained enough membership so as not to have to disband. A member recently stepped up for the opportunity of filling this position. She will be mentored by President Linda and a conference call will be made to keep members informed and to do the proper voting. This is exciting to

get them back on track.

Unit #479, John Kennedy – has sadly not been able to accomplish anything directly with the veterans. Plus, their Post Commander has been ill with cancer, prayers being sent. Unit President kept in touch with members via telephone.

Looking forward to a better 2021 year for the American Legion Auxiliary and our veterans.



6th District Report Patti Westpfahl

When I accepted the position as President of the 6th District, I was apprehensive and worried I would not be able to carry out

all the duties which were expected of me. But with the support of many past presidents, unit members and the wonderful people at the office in Portage, I felt more at ease.

I attended the ALA Department Convention in Middleton in July 2019. For the installation I was escorted by my son Bradley, an Iraq combat veteran. The ceremony was very impressive, and it was great to meet all those wonderful ladies and hear President Joannie Dickerson outline her plan for the coming year!

Then plans were made to attend the National Convention in Indianapolis. The convention was very exciting. I marched in the parade, watched the installation, and heard the speech from National President Nicole Clapp (Dept of IA). She is an exuberant woman and passionate about our Veterans.

Well, then it was back home and time to get to work! Membership numbers were released so we all started working hard to get those renewals in!

At our Fall Fun Day, we were joined by our Juniors. Everyone had fun decorating small Christmas trees for distribution to local shut-in veterans. We also tied fleece blankets which were taken to King, folded some pocket flags, and signed Christmas cards for the veterans.

Poppy distributions were either cancelled or you got very creative! Markesan Unit 282 placed poppy cans in local businesses and held brat fries. They also presented two scholarships to deserving students and gifts to veterans at the local nursing home. A number of units held events as drive-throughs. Ripon Unit 43 had brat fries and bake sales. Chilton Unit 125 held a spaghetti supper where they attached a thank you card and poppy to each order. Unit 234 in Omro sent out 20 "Support Our Troops" care packages in September and December. They also supported the annual fundraising golf outing in August.

In March I attended the first meeting of Unit 165, Two Rivers, and was very honored to install their officers. Congratulations, Unit 165!

As my term as 6th District President comes to an end, I am disappointed that I was not able to attend more meetings and meet more wonderful, devoted ladies. We all need to keep our eyes on the goals to support and honor our veterans, active-duty soldiers, and their families as we fulfill our mission!

Again, thank you for this great honor in representing you and this outstanding organization, the American Legion Auxiliary.

2020-21 YEAR END DISTRICT REPORTS



7th District Report

Christina Petranovich

District 7 met September 12, 2020 in Loyal. We were honored to have Department President Joanie Dickerson, along with Department Senior VP Diane Weggen and Department 2nd VP Maggie Geiger, in attendance for the election of officers, including myself, as new District 7 President. Clark County President Cheryl Hare was also in attendance and we had much discussion on membership and what units could do during this year of pandemic. All units were encouraged to report on what unusual measures were being done to help our veterans and communities.

District 7 had units participate in the Americanism essay contest and submitted posters for the poppy poster contest. Some units honored WWII veterans on the 75th Anniversary of the Great Wars and baked and delivered cookies for homeless veterans at the Klein Center. Several other units assisted their posts with "drive-by" fundraisers and paid for 13 veterans' meals at a steak feed. They provided financial assistance to a local veteran in need of medical treatment, assembled and delivered Christmas baskets to nursing home veterans, prepared and served a meal for a visiting veteran's family, and gave flowers to veterans in nursing homes. In lieu of visits, many units sent cards to keep in touch with homebound and nursing home veterans.

District 7 has a dedicated team that has been contacting units that are having issues in membership. The district has been staying connected with the units by sending out newsletters. Several members from District 7 attended the ALA in The Know session at Midwinter Conference.

The rough waters of COVID-19 tried to sink our ship, but the units of District 7 are firmly anchored in service to our Veterans and have stayed our course.



8th District Report

Amanda Szalewski

As my term as 8th District President comes to a close, I've been reflecting back on the experience. This last year was not what I expected it to be, but I think everyone could say the same. The COVID-19 pandemic really changed what it meant to serve our veterans and those who are actively serving in the Armed Forces.

Throughout the year, our units have been hard at work fulfilling the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. This was evident in the year-end reports that I received from units. Even though most activities were cancelled or postponed due to the pandemic, the units still volunteered almost 5,000 hours for veterans, almost 1,200 hours for military families and over 9,000 hours in our communities.

Over the last year, 8th District has consistently been in the top half of all districts for membership. As I'm writing this, we have four units that are at or above 100%. We have many more units that are so close to 100% - only needing 5 members or less. Way to go! This is an accomplishment that all of our units

should be proud of.

Unfortunately, during the past year, we weren't able to meet in person for our Fall or Spring conferences, although we did hold a conference call for the Spring conference. Hopefully, we will be able to meet in person again this Fall and be able to share everything the units have accomplished.

Regardless of the unique challenges that last year presented, it has truly been an honor to serve the 8th District as their President. I want to thank each and every one of the units and members in the district for their support over the last two years. I am so proud of everything that the 8th District and the members have accomplished! I believe that 8th District will continue to achieve great things for years to come.



9th District Report

Marian Brown

The first year of my term as 9th District President has been challenging. We were unable to have meetings, events, fundraisers, and little in-person communication. I am hoping with things getting open I will be able to visit the units and attend county meetings of the district this year.

With all the limitations, the Noble Ninth got out and did volunteering to help our veterans and military with over 16,000 hours recorded and over \$26,700 spent. Some of these included meals for the Guard helping with testing and vaccinations, cards and notes sent, favors sent to veterans' homes and assisted living facilities, making quilts, sewing masks, supporting the Christmas Gift Shop and many more. All were greatly appreciated by the recipients. Schools limited what was available to assist with, but are waiting for the tutors, box tops, ink cartridges and supplies to be shared with them soon. The many scholarships were able to continue and generated over \$11,000 given out this past year. Our members had golf outings, brat fries, electronic raffles, with many other interesting and creative ways to generate funds that allowed them to keep supporting our programs. They have come up with new ways to distribute poppies to help raise funds. Great Job!

Membership: the Ninth District is currently in 7th place, we lost over 100 members in the past two years. We have our work cut out to get new members to stay strong and to continue our programs with assisting and helping veterans, military, and their families. But we did have many units with 100% or over and congratulations to them: Niagara Unit 136, Peshtigo Unit 312, Lena Unit 342, Abrams Unit 523, Kaukauna Unit 41, and Seymour Unit 106! Many units are within a couple of members only.

The members of the Noble Ninth are true leaders within our Legion Family. They work hard and are dedicated individuals when it comes to service to others, not self. Thank you for all you do. Thank God for blessing us with your care and support of our organization.



10th District Report

Aimee Korger

Zoom, Google Meets, Microsoft Teams...these are all things I had never heard of before, BUT NOW, they are common knowledge and their software is taking up space on all of our devices while we use them on a regular basis.

The pandemic has affected EVERYONE! As is around the state, units are struggling and working hard to pick themselves back up to get working those programs again. We did have some units continue to serve as much as they could during this last year. One unit held a mail in poppy drive. River Falls Unit 121 did a drive-thru poppy drive where they could drive in one entrance of the parking lot and from the first person take a poppy from a board, then at the next person put something into a bucket, then the car would drive out the other driveway and away they went. The members did wear their masks while they were working at the drive. MASKS...this was another way that units stepped up. Many members and units made masks and donated them to the veterans' homes and VA hospitals around the state and in Minnesota as they were needed.

The Mighty 10th District was the first District to hold an in-person Spring Conference this year and I have to admit it was so nice to see all the happy smiling faces. We had a good turnout and did offer a virtual option for those that were not able to attend in person. The conference was a success and elections were held.

Like previous years and for the last time...It has been an HONOR to serve as the President of the 10th District. These last three years have been educational, exciting, and so much FUN! I wish all the new officers the best of luck in their new roles this upcoming term.

The Department Convention is coming up and hopefully we will all see each other again soon. "NORMAL...we are getting there...slowly but surely, someday we will return to some sort of normalcy.

Thank you! For GOD and country, be safe and stay PROUD!!!



11th District Report

Theresa Schindler

The illustrious Eleventh District ALA members have remained "Anchored in Service, Setting a Course for the Future"...in the midst of a year of global health challenges. While unable to sail the usual course for our veterans and communities, unit members did what they could from home. Whether making skull caps for soldiers or sending gift cards to military personnel, the enthusiasm and caring of our members was evident.

Five of 23 units attained over 100% membership while seven units reached over 90%, and nine units were over 80%. Membership chairman, Jeanie Osero, is to be commended for reaching out to every unit with phone calls and friendship. Several members were happy to just chat and share with an ALA sister

during the long lonely pandemic days.

Stetsonville was the site of the 2020 District Fall Conference. Junior members led the Pledge of Allegiance. Department President Joanie Dickerson was the honored guest and speaker. Three other Past Department Presidents were present to encourage us into the long winter and the unknown future. District donations were made to President Joanie's special project and to the M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan Fund.

The 2021 District Spring Conference was held at the brand new Northwoods Veterans Post in Merrill. This Legion Post does not currently have an Auxiliary, but Eleventh District ALA members envision one there as we set course for the near future. This conference featured Diane Weggen, Department Senior Vice President, as the guest speaker. Diane's message about membership brightened all attendees. Skits, games, raffles, and riddles were sprinkled between district reports. Donations were made to Camp American Legion, The HighGround, the department poppy fund, and to the National President's special project.

District members are looking forward to getting out with poppies. Poppies will be distributed in person this year. Unit members will "anchor" at assigned locations as they remind everyone of the symbolism in the red blooms. They will spread hope and smiles as they "set a course for the future" of those we serve through our service.

It is humbling to serve as the Eleventh District President. This district in the Northwoods is indeed filled with emboldened and generous ALA unit members.



12th District Report

Betty Stone

Here in the 12th District, we are small in number, but we are big in service. We have a very small population but a large land mass to cover. Still, we do what we can for our veterans and communities. Due to COVID restrictions and distance from VA facilities we are unable to volunteer, but we support them through monetary gifts and items they request.

District plans to celebrate our 100th Birthday were also put on hold. We plan to have birthday parties, fashion shows and more when we are able to meet together again.

In membership, we worked on renewals as getting out to see and meet people was not possible. Our membership chairmen did a fantastic job. Juniors make up 9% of our total membership. Working alongside our senior members, Juniors learn what the American Legion family stands for and what we do for the veterans.

Our units work diligently in sewing, cooking, cleaning, and raising money for our veterans and communities. They continue to educate and have parties for our youth. We are a visible and vital part of our communities.

2021 AMERICANISM ESSAY ★★★ CONTEST WINNERS ★★★

Essay Topic: How can we address the health and well-being of our veterans, military and their families?

CLASS I (GRADES 3 & 4)

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1ST PLACE - Laura Stoltz | Richland Center #13 |
| 2ND PLACE - Jameson Morgan | Fredonia #410 |
| 3RD PLACE - Lucas Swanson | Siren #132 |
| 4TH PLACE - Saahas Mahajan | Menomonee Falls #382 |
| 5TH PLACE - Hannah Bechel | Plum City #365 |

CLASS II (GRADES 5 & 6)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1ST PLACE - Cailin Puzach | Sparta #100 |
| 2ND PLACE - Larson Lindner | Chilton #125 |
| 3RD PLACE - Skye Halverson | Richland Center #13 |
| 4TH PLACE - Landen Varga | Menomonee Falls #382 |
| 5TH PLACE - Kendall Johnson | Port Washington #82 |

CLASS III (GRADES 7 & 8)

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1ST PLACE - Samantha Lay | Crivitz #413 |
| 2ND PLACE - Richelle Raether | Thorp #118 |
| 3RD PLACE - Shalome Steele | Richland Center #13 |
| 4TH PLACE - Arianna Kress | Sparta #100 |
| 5TH PLACE - Kendra Pritzl | Butternut #272 |

CLASS IV (GRADES 9 & 10)

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1ST PLACE - Macy Reybrock | New London #263 |
| 2ND PLACE - Kady Burgard | Butternut #272 |

CLASS V (GRADES 11 & 12)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 1ST PLACE - Bailey Blader-Lucht | Wautoma #317 |
| 2ND PLACE - Kallee LeCloux | Thorp #118 |
| 3RD PLACE - Jaidyn Jewell | Siren #132 |

CLASS VI (Students with Special Needs)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 1ST PLACE - Trinity Grace Mulder | Appleton #38 |
| 2ST PLACE - Penelope Radtke | Shiocton #512 |

American Legion Auxiliary-Department of Wisconsin 100th Annual Department Convention 2021 CONVENTION SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021 (subject to change)

- 11:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration
- 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm Fundraiser Raffle
- 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm Headquarters Office (Supplies/Exhibits)
- 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Legion Family Joint Executive Committees Luncheon (by invitation only)
- 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm Recognition Program
 - o Honored PDP Berne Baer
 - o District Membership Awards
 - o Parade of Checks & Meet National President Nicole Clapp

FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2021

- 7:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration
- 7:00 am – 5:00 pm Fundraiser Raffle
- 7:00 am – 5:00 pm Headquarters Office (Supplies/Exhibits)
- 8:00 am – 8:45 am Processional and Flag Rehearsal
- 9:00 am – 9:45 am District Caucuses
- 10:15 am – 5:00 pm Convention Session
- 5:00 pm Tellers, Credential Chairman & Judges of Election Meeting

SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2021

- 7:00 am – 8:00 am Registration
- 7:00 am – 10:00 am Fundraiser Raffle
- 7:00 am – 11:00 am Headquarters Office (Supplies/Exhibits)
- 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Convention Session
 - o 9:00 am-VOTING
 - o Installation of 2021-2022 Department Officers and District Presidents
 - o Adjournment of 2021 Convention
- 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Church Services
- 6:30 pm Joint Memorial Service Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm – 11:00 pm Saturday Evening Entertainment (Legion Family invited to attend; ticket purchase required w/Registration)

SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021

- 8:00 am Joint Legion and Auxiliary Memorial Service
- 9:30 am Department Executive Board Meeting



ALA IN THE KNOW (Important Info for Every Member)



2021 REGISTRATION FORM

please submit one form per person • please print clearly

Members are encouraged to register early---space is limited! Registrations accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Registrations received after capacity is reached, will be returned. **No reservations will be accepted on site.** Session is \$25/person and includes morning refreshments, a light lunch, and program materials. Sessions will include information on a variety of topics and Auxiliary programs. New topics will be covered as we start a new century of service, so come out and join the fun!

Schedule for all conferences:

8:00 am – 9:00 am Registration/Morning Refreshments

9:00 am – 3:30 pm Informative presentation, lunch break, interactive program session, questions & answers

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

District #: _____ Unit #: _____ Unit City: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: home cell: (_____) _____

Select One:

	DATE	LOCATION	RESERVATION DUE
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, 09/18/2021	American Legion Post #59 803 N Page Street, Stoughton, WI 53589	Postmarked by 09/01/2021
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, 09/25/2021	American Legion Post #87 1404 Maccauley Ave, Rice Lake, WI 54868	Postmarked by 09/08/2021
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, 10/02/2021	American Legion Post #38 3220 W College Ave, Appleton, WI 54914	Postmarked by 9/15/2021
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, 10/09/2021	American Legion Post #449 3245 N 124 th Street, Brookfield, WI 53005	Postmarked by 09/22/2021
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, 10/16/2021	American Legion Post #306 518 Water Street, Green Lake, WI 54941	Postmarked by 09/29/2021
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, 10/23/2021	American Legion Post #121 121 N Main Street, River Falls, WI 54022	Postmarked by 10/06/2021

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Mail check, payable to ALA-Wisconsin, by the deadline listed above to:
ALA Wisconsin, P. O. Box 140, Portage, WI 53901-0140.

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

Please share how your unit fulfilled the ALA mission during the COVID-19 crisis. How did you stay in contact and function as a unit during this time? What valuable lessons did you learn that would benefit other units in your area?

Please share one (1) question you would like addressed during the session:

MISSION IN ACTION: UNIT 470 MEMORIAL DAY TRADITION

As Unit President Mary Ellen Race of Unit 470 says, "The Auxiliary does more than bake cakes, hold meetings, and sing songs. We remember all Veterans." Each year, Unit 470 recruits helpers to place flags at the gravesites of veterans prior to Memorial Day.



Mary Ellen is pictured at the gravesite of World War I veteran, Walter Frawley, who died in 1935 and is buried at St. Finbar's Cemetery in the Town of Saukville. There are 17 veterans buried in the small cemetery. Their flags will be removed after Veterans Day.

APRIL 2021 WINNERS

1	15.00	Dorothy Andrews	Grafton
2	15.00	Rita Paul	Kewaunee
3	15.00	Carroll Lombard	Onalaska
4	25.00	Kathy Lattimer	Auburndale
5	15.00	Harold & Diana Thom	Fort Atkinson
6	15.00	Theresa Anderson	New Auburn
7	15.00	ALA Unit #59	Stoughton
8	15.00	Denise Tritz	Pittsville
9	15.00	Rita Benik	Bruce
10	15.00	Sandra Michels	Chippewa Falls
11	25.00	Nicole Hudson	Appleton
12	15.00	John Loresch	Sturgeon Bay
13	15.00	Colleen Handrick	Marathon
14	15.00	Rich Klaila	Poynette
15	500.00	Pauline Teser	Salem
16	15.00	Eunice Seering	Mayville
17	15.00	Jane Marie Vining	Neshkoro
18	25.00	Judith Eulberg	Portage
19	15.00	Kate Ketelhohn	Cedarburg
20	15.00	Jennifer Schmidkofer	New Holstein
21	15.00	Judy Mathison	La Crosse
22	15.00	Lorraine Schurman	Lancaster
23	15.00	Judith Sjoerdsma	Randolph
24	15.00	Clara Higgins	Winthrop Harbor IL
25	25.00	Marion Erlandson	Ellsworth
26	15.00	Robin Denver	Cumberland
27	15.00	Jane Wilcox	Wautoma
28	15.00	Alice Malin	Onalaska
29	15.00	Bonnie Owen	Tomah
30	15.00	Dawn Guelig	Theresa