



Department of Wisconsin District Eleven Newsletter

Theresa Schindler, President
W10241 Bitner Ave., Owen WI 54460
715-316-1763 • tschindl@ceas.coop



Honor our Country Support our Veterans

December 2025 / January 2026

* **Prayer:** O Lord, as we celebrate winter and Christmas, let us ever be mindful of Your divine gift of love and all Your blessings to our lives. Gladden our hearts anew with joyful tidings. Guide us to mend a quarrel...seek out a friend...share some treasure...encourage youth...show mercy in word and deed. May we listen, apologize, appreciate, and demonstrate kindness with love and respect to all. Let us be mindful of the message of that first Christmas morning "Peace on earth. Good will to all people." Amen.

* **Membership:** The 2026 goal is to have everyone paid for the new year prior to the end of 2025. It's a lofty goal, but we can do it! Presently our Eleventh District is in **2nd place** among the twelve districts in the Dept. of Wisconsin. Way to go! These 4 Units are over 100%: **Land O Lakes 141%; Kennan 116%; Odanah and Mercer both at 104%. Lublin and Park Falls** only need one more new or renewed member to be at **100%**. All these Units can be rightfully proud of their 2026 membership accomplishments. Paid memberships need to be sent in **weekly** by your Unit's membership chairman. Please, help your membership chairman to get your Unit to 100%. Perhaps you can make a phone call or knock on a door. Department President Sue Hembrook is honoring the 250th birthday of the USA by having each District focus on one of the beautiful National Parks. Eleventh District is "**Hiking the Redwood National Park**" toward **100% Membership**.

* **American Legion Auxiliary Tracking Worksheet-Member:** Hopefully, each member of your Unit has this worksheet hanging on the refrigerator or in another convenient location to track service hours and donations from April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026. All unit members will then give the member form to the unit president for completion of the Unit report. These forms are all available on the Department website.

* **Community Service:** Community Service is at the heart of our core beliefs and an integral part of our Preamble "...to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation..." If your unit members volunteer at church or school, sew or knit for a nursing home, donate food, *etc.* they are performing Community Service. Members keep track of hours / donations on the form mentioned above for reporting.

* **PR:** Does your unit have a Facebook page? Social media including pictures can highlight your Unit's activities and events. Our District PR chairman is Nancy Schultz of Butternut Unit 272. Contact Nancy nanc.14869@yahoo.com about the District Facebook page or to share pictures. Department PR chair is Natalia Genovesi King kinggenovesi@gmail.com Reach out to Natalia with any PR questions or concerns.

* **ALABGS:** Information for the 2026 session of ALA Badger Girls State was sent out to Units. The fee to sponsor a delegate to this premier Americanism program is \$500 which includes all lodging, food, and materials for the delegate for the week. The reservation form and fee is due to Department Headquarters in January. UW-Oshkosh is the hosting campus. Please contact Dept. Chm. Dany Thompson alabgs.chairman@gmail.com with questions or if you'd like to serve as a counselor in June for the session.

* **Americanism:** Does your unit sponsor the Americanism Essay Contest? The title for the Americanism Essay Contest this year is "**Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans who Fought for our Freedom**". Forms are available on the Department website: www.amlegionauxwi.org Give students in your local schools the opportunity to express their thoughts and enter this contest. You may give local awards and then send one winning essay for each class on for Department competition.

* **Mid-Winter Conference:** The American Legion's Midwinter Conference will be held January 16-18, 2026 at the Oneida Hotel, Green Bay, WI. Check The American Legion's website for registration and lodging information. The Auxiliary sessions will be held on **Saturday, January 17th**. An important session will be about the new annual reporting. It is important that at least one of your unit members have a computer, as reports will be streamlined and submitted via computer. This will save paper work and postage. Get computer savvy members to attend this Conference. Perhaps your unit might consider paying their registration and/or lodging. Then they can be the person(s) to help the unit president and treasurer with this annual reporting task. It is very important that **all** units report. Reported numbers eventually end up before Congress and help to determine benefits for Veterans.

* **Holiday Cards and Visits to Veterans:** This is a great way to share holiday joy with those who gave us so much through their service to our country. Share pictures of your visits on the District Facebook page.

* **American Legion family holiday parties:** As your American Legion Post, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders gather to celebrate please take pictures and share with other Posts and Units in the Eleventh District. Thank you, and have fun celebrating!

* **Mark your 2026 calendar for the District Spring Conference:**

When: Saturday, April 25, 2026

Where: Three Lakes, WI

Post and Unit 431 will be hosting, and promise an awesome event!

More detailed information in the next Newsletter.

* **2026 Spring Conference Elections:** The ALA Eleventh District Constitution (Article IV, Section 1) states that a District President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, and Treasurer be **elected** biennially in the even number years. The District Secretary, Chaplain, Parliamentarian, and Sergeant-at-Arms are **appointed** positions. Article IV, Section 2 states that the District President and Vice Presidents shall **NOT** serve for two (2) successive terms in the same capacity. This means that our very capable Treasurer, Janet Ericksen, may continue in that capacity if she is willing and is elected. The positions of President and Vice presidents will need to be filled in April. District Eleven is blessed with very capable members to fill these positions. We are all here to help each other out. No one will be "thrown under the bus". Those of us currently in these positions are more than willing to mentor and help the new officers. I ask that you seriously think about serving in one of these offices at the District level. It's really not difficult or overly time consuming. My contact information is located at the top of this Newsletter. Please contact me with any questions or concerns, so that you can have some enlightenment and help before the spring election. Thank You. Theresa Schindler

