



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

Honor Our Country, Support Our Veterans



Prayer: Dear Lord, You have blessed this country with an armed militia that protects us on land, in the air, at sea, at home and around the world. You have provided dedicated service members who have laid down their lives to keep this country free. In May, we honor and remember those soldiers and the sacrifice they and their families made. Please do not let us forget them.

We also remember those deployed to the Middle East and other areas. Keep them safe. Move the hearts of those negotiating to come to an agreement that leads to peace. In your name we pray, Amen.

May is such a busy month for the ALA. We start with Mothers Day. Don't forget our Gold Star Mothers. If you can, visit the Gold Star Mother's memorial in Rothschild. Next is Armed Forces Day on May 16. This is when we pay tribute to military personnel currently serving in the United States Armed Forces. Please visit <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/celebrations/national-armed-forces-day-third-saturday-in-may> for a deeper explanation and seven ways to celebrate the day. Don't forget the Yellow Ribbon Campaign. Remember our troops that are currently serving. Wrap those trees, wear a ribbon. Tie into Armed Forces Day – it's for them! That brings us to the culmination of the month. Even though we celebrate poppies all month long, the focus takes place on Memorial Day weekend. Friday, May 22 is National Poppy Day. Find as many locations as possible and distribute poppies. (Remember to ask permission from the business first.) Have a smile and poppy ready to hand out. Reach out to them. Encourage everyone you know to take 1 hour of their paid for 3 day weekend to remember those who paid the price. Find and attend a Memorial service near where you will be. Participate in Taps Across America <https://www.tapsacrossamerica.org/> Let's fill social media with videos of Memorial Day activities that have real meaning. Let them know Who we are, What we do, and Why we matter. Send pictures to Department for *The Wisconsin*.

MEMBERSHIP: I can't emphasize enough the importance of keeping and adding more members. National has set a goal of 95% for membership by June 12, 2026, Female Veterans Day. Contact those who have not renewed. Bring up your ALA unit in your conversations with others. If you need help or ideas, contact Department or me. We have five weeks to get this done!

Congratulations to Tigerton, Mosinee, Iola, Pittsville and Vesper for landing in the 100%+ membership club.

Elections: Many units hold their elections for officers in May. Do you have someone who's been in office forever? It's wonderful that they are willing to serve that long but ask why? Why are they still in that position after xx years? Will no one step up to carry on? Does that have an impact on members who would run but are afraid they will be stuck for the next decade? I strongly suggest term limits in you bylaws. Yes, some members are not cut out for this work and no one trains for these positions. Let's all take a turn at a leadership position in our unit. Holding an office will also give you a deeper understanding of the organization.

And the Survey Says: At Spring Conference we asked for your feedback of the new meeting format. Most of you liked the half day, business only format. You just want to start a little later. The blind auction was well received by most. Others suggested a 50/50 raffle. The sound system left much to be desired. Some liked the assigned seating and others did not. One thing that I noticed and it came up in the survey was side conversations. We need to be respectful of the speakers and hold our conversations to appropriate times. And I talk too much.

We have speakers and educational opportunities at the Fall conference. This allows us to keep the spring business meeting to a half day. Speaking of educational options, is there something you would like to learn about? Do you have questions about all the reports you just filled out? Let me know and I'll see about adding it to Fall conference.

Conventions: Department convention is July 17-19 in Appleton. If you are attending, there will be a sign in book (I'll have it). There you can mark if you are a delegate, delegate at large, or guest. We need to know that for voting on Saturday morning. Please get your delegate list in to your unit president.

I need two flag bearers. Time requirements are Friday morning 7:30 for rehearsal until 9:00 for the processional, and again Saturday afternoon approximately 2:30 for the recessional. I also need a page. Primary duty is to get raffle bag each morning from headquarters and return it at noon and end of each day.

Don't be shy, it's not a big job but a necessary one. There is a dress code for these positions.

Is anyone going to National convention? Department is running a bus. All details are available at <https://wilegion.org/national-convention>. Sit back & relax during the ride.

What's Up: Hmm, I just said how busy May is but I don't have any activities to list. Must all be busy distributing poppies. Don't forget to send your upcoming events to me for inclusion in the newsletter. Send them anytime you have the info ready.



Remember

