

MEMBERSHIP

Department Membership Team

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Chair

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2025 Membership Totals – 90.17%



(as of 5/14/2025)

District	Goal %
4	100.43%
6	94.14%
3	92.09%
12	91.04%
11	89.84%
2	89.82%
9	89.23%
10	88.07%
1	87.92%
8	87.80%
5	86.71%
7	85.95%

Membership is the heart of our organization. Our Department President's theme of Serving our veterans, military and each other from the depths of our hearts, is a constant reminder of how important membership is in all that we do.

Where we're at (as of 05/14/2025):

- 639 New memberships
- 95 Units joined the 100% Club
- 94 Members rejoined
- 3 Re-chartered Units
- 129 Recruit One pins awarded
- 3 Members received the National Recruit 10 award
- 107 New members joined the WI Facebook membership group

Congratulations 4th District! President Kathy Grom, and membership chair Bonnie Jakubczyk, along with their District members, worked hard on membership and it paid off! They are the first District to join the *100% Club*! They showed that recruiting new members and renewing member-

ships is a team effort. Way to Git-R-Done!

Has it been a while since you've attended the Department Convention? Or, have you not attended before? This is the year that you don't want to miss! We'll be celebrating the units and members who have worked hard on membership. Plus, recognizing those folks who work behind the scenes to make it all possible. In addition, you will learn about our programs and have the opportunity to network with other members who believe in the same mission as you do. Don't miss out on this great opportunity...register for Department Convention today!

Let's continue the growth and strength of our organization by letting everyone know who we are, what we do and why we matter. What we do today will leave a lasting impact for those coming behind us. Always remember your *why*, and your purpose. Remain steadfast, dedicated, and committed to the mission and the results will lead towards a positive future for all. Thank you for serving from the depth of your heart for our veterans, military, their families and our community.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sandy Mack
Department Chairman
smack0555@gmail.com

The purpose of the Community Service Program is to promote the American Legion Auxiliary's commitment to making our communities better places to live by supporting local service projects.

There are so many different fundraising ideas. You could have a food drive, read a book at an elementary school, blood drive, chili dump, brat fry, adopt a family, offer a meal to an elderly neighbor, meat raffle, participate in the Honor Flight homecoming, meals on wheels, have a car or craft show or fashion show. These are just some ways to get your community involved.

Have you developed a plan, implemented community service activities that aid veterans, active duty, servicemembers, and their families? Promote economic security for veterans, active duty servicemembers, their families, and homeless veterans while encouraging the public to assist in this endeavor.

It is important to record your community service hours. See what works best in your unit. It may be documenting in a unit folder monthly or documenting on your own volunteer hour tracking sheet. This is a wonderful way to assist in completing year-end reports. An hour here and an hour there adds up!

In your units, what can you do as a group to make our programs more successful, and what new and creative ways can we promote our program? Listen to all program suggestions, don't be afraid to think out of the box and leave your comfort zone, and of course, keep doing what works best for you. Invite members from the community to assist in fundraisers. They may be eligible to become a member. Always keep an application on you. If someone shows interest, sign your name and number on the brochure and ask for theirs – then do a follow up call in a week or two.

Let us show our communities who we are and what we do. Celebrate our rich history and show the pride we have in our organization. Together, we can make a difference! For God and Country.

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

Bonnie Dorniak
Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer
deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org
608-745-0124

Members helping members – that is what the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is all about. President Becky selected AEF as her special project in keeping with her focus of 'serving our veterans, military and **each other** from the depths of our hearts.'

Eligible members needing assistance through AEF may receive up to \$3,000. Online applications are available on the AEF program page of the department website, but are submitted directly to the national organization to maintain confidentiality. If applying, please ensure all required documentation is included with the completed application.

AEF offers two types of grants. Hardship grants are for members facing a financial crisis when no other source of aid is readily available to pay for shelter, basic household utilities, and/or for loss of income. Disaster grants assist members who received damage to their primary residence, were displaced or evacuated from their residence, or had out-of-pocket expenses for temporary emergency expenses as a result of a natural disaster.

In order to maintain the AEF, donations are always needed. Units can hold special fundraisers, collect money from each member at their meetings, or encourage memorial gifts for Auxiliary or Legion members be designated to AEF. Poppy funds cannot be donated to AEF.

This past year, Wisconsin members generously supported President Becky's special project and donated more than \$32,000 to AEF. Wow! THANK YOU!!

According to the national AEF coordinator, two Wisconsin members applied for hardship grants this year. One was denied funding for failing to provide the necessary supporting documentation but the second applicant received \$2,250.

AMERICANISM

Diane Burkhalter
Department Chairman
262-284-6873
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It has been an honor to be your Americanism Chairman the last two years. My committee and I enjoyed reading all the Americanism essays and were inspired by the thoughts of our youth. I enjoyed conversations with the various units and questions, events and activities they shared. Although end of the year reporting might not be on our top ten list of enjoyable activities, they truly illustrated how creative and strong our Americanism program is.

On June 14, 1777, the "Stars and Stripes" was designated the official national symbol of the United States. In 1885, Bernard J. Cigrand, a 19-year-old teacher in Waubesa, asked his students to reflect on the meaning of this symbol and write an essay on what the flag meant to them.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson declared June 14th as National Flag Day. He stated, "My Fellow Citizens: We meet to celebrate Flag Day because this flag which we honor and under which we serve is an emblem of our unity, our power, our thought and purpose as a nation. It has no other character than that which we give it from generation to generation. The choices are ours."

As Legion Family members, we have numerous opportunities to educate the future generations on proper flag etiquette, the manner of delivery of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, the history and symbolism of our flag, and showing respect for the flag. Partner with schools and youth groups to conduct flag folding ceremonies, give a short program on the proper handling and displaying of the flag, how to respect the flag in a parade, raising and lowering, and during the national anthem.

Invite the community into your posts for family days in which you have endless opportunities to educate in exciting and fun ways. Remember Woodrow Wilson's words, "The choices are ours."

In the next few months, we will attend parades and events that will be honoring men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice and the birth of our nation. Let us all take time to do as the students did on June 14, 1777 – reflect on the meaning of our flag.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Donna Jensen
Department Chaplain
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And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. ~ James 5:15-16

I believe in the power of prayer and also believe it is a personal thing between you and your God, whoever that may be. Praying on a regular basis can form a habit that I find very beneficial.

There is no right or wrong way or time to say a prayer. As we age, what we pray for changes; for example, from “God, I want a new bike” to “God, give me healing from this illness, guidance for this decision or strength to get through this challenge.”

No one else can tell you if, when, how or what to pray for. There is no need to share what you pray for as that is between you and God. It is a special, personal thing for each individual and is based on their needs and desires. God says our prayers will be answered but sometimes the answer is “not now” or not what we thought we wanted. Sometimes it takes faith and patience to wait for an answer.

President’s Prayer Book
I am reminding everyone that I am putting together a prayer book for Auxiliary President Becky Mueller and am still looking for prayers, poems and inspirational pieces to include in it. They can be original or from another source, but please give the author and name, Unit and District number of the person submitting them. You can email me at: djensen20@gmail.com or mail to: Donna Jensen, 6936 N. 86th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53224. You can also send your Unit Prayer Books to me and there will be a small gift for the best book. The books will be returned to the units at Department Convention in July. Thank you.

Music:
I Say A Little Prayer
By: Burt Bacharach and Hal David - 1966
The moment I wake up,
before I put on my makeup,
I say a little prayer for you.
And while I’m combing my hair now,
and wondering what dress to wear now,
I say a little prayer for you.

Sweepstakes winners are posted at amlegionauxwi.org under the "More" tab.



GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

2025 Department Convention
Hyatt Regency / KI Center, Green Bay
July 17-20, 2025

Convention Highlights (subject to change):

Wednesday, July 16, 2025 – Joint Legion Family Testimonial

6:00 pm Social Hour/Cash Bar
7:00 pm Opening Ceremony/Family Style Dinner
(Must register to attend: www.wilegion.org)

Thursday, July 17, 2025

3:00 pm Past Presidents Parley (PPP) Business Meeting.
Are you a Past Unit, County, or District President? If so, you are eligible to join the PPP and participate in decisions about PPP dues, scholarships, and the Mentor of the Year award.
4:30 pm Election Instructions Meeting (for Judge of Elections, Credentials Chair, Department Tellers, and all District Presidents & District Pages).

Friday, July 18, 2025

9:15 am Opening Processional. General Session will open immediately following the procession.
Afternoon Membership report w/Awards, Nominations for Department & National Offices, and Tribute to Honored PDP Joan Chwala.

Saturday, July 19, 2025

8:00 am General Session.
9:00 am Elections of 2025-2026 Department Officers, National Executive Committee person, and nominees for Alternates for the 2025 National Convention. Installation of 2025-2026 Department Officers and District Presidents.
2:45 pm (ish) All Legion Family members are invited to a fun event with buffet, beverages and entertainment by Daddy Ds! Admission ticket (\$25) must be pre-purchased no later than June 30!
7:00 pm

Sunday, July 20, 2025

8:00 am Joint Memorial Service.
9:00 am Post-Convention Department Executive Board meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

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

May 23 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 report form can be obtained from the department website or by contacting Linda Cason at Auxiliary Headquarters. The remaining proceeds must be used for the welfare of veterans, active-duty military, and their families where a medical or financial need is evident. As a reminder, poppies can be distributed all year long!

The 2025 Department Convention will be held July 17-20, 2025 at the Hyatt Regency/KI Center in Green Bay. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Auxiliary, visit with old friends, and meet new ones. Delegate forms will be mailed to all unit presidents 30 days prior to convention (June 18, 2025) and should be completed and returned immediately. Registration is \$30, payable to The American Legion. Registrations received after July 7 are \$35. Please visit the department website for complete details.

The ALA National Convention is August 25 to August 27, 2025 in Tampa Bay, Florida. Details from the national organization will be posted on the department website when they become available (usually mid-June). Members interested in attending should contact Department Secretary Bonnie Dorniak at deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org if they want a registration packet.

Four ALA In The Know Conferences are scheduled each Saturday from September 13 through October 4. The reservation deadline is August 1. The reservation form was mailed to all units in April and is available on the department website under Programs > ALA In The Know.

ALABGS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:
SARAH GODLEWSKI

“American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State wasn’t just a leadership program – it was the spark for my career in public service. In 1999, I was thrilled to be selected as a delegate, but that excitement was met with doubts from male classmates who questioned whether women could succeed in politics. ALABGS showed me otherwise. Surrounded by other young women passionate about leadership and community service, I saw firsthand that we belonged in these spaces. I ran for Attorney General and lost, but that experience prepared me for the real world of politics – where perseverance is everything. ALABGS is more than a program – it’s a launching pad for the next generation of women in public service.”
Sarah Godlewski is a 2000 graduate of Memorial High School in Eau Claire

and holds a degree in Peace and Conflict Resolution from George Mason University. She also completed a national security fellowship with the Air War College and earned a certificate in Public Treasury Management from the National Institute of Public Finance and Pepperdine School of Management. Currently serving as Wisconsin’s 29th Secretary of State, Sarah previously served as Wisconsin’s State Treasurer from 2019 to 2023. In addition, she has been the Chair of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands since 2019, overseeing a \$1.5 billion trust fund that supports Wisconsin public schools and invests in local communities. Sarah lives in Madison with her husband Max, son Hartley, rescue dog Tanner, and rescue cat Macaroni & Cheese.



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wisconsin 2025 Scholarship Winners

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

H. S. & Angeline Lewis
(1) \$1,000 award – Graduate Student
No qualified applicant

H. S. & Angeline Lewis
(5) \$1,000 awards
Taiya Lang, Chili Marshfield #54-8
Kira Richardson, Chippewa Falls Chippewa Falls #77-10
Lillian Russow, Clintonville Caroline #456-8
Nykole Van Groll, River Falls Appleton #38-9
McKenna Wavrunek, Kewaunee Kewaunee #29-9

Merit & Memorial
(8) \$1,000 awards
Adalin Macauley
Miya Grunert, Ripon Ripon #43-6
Eleanor Smith
Jamie Damm, Columbus Columbus #62-2
Pearl Behrend
Kennedy Tenpas, Waupun Waupun #210-6
Barbara Kranig
MacKenzy King, Eleva Eleva #459-10
Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan
Anna Blair, Appleton Appleton #38-9
Diane Duscheck
Samuel Lipps, Onalaska Onalaska #336-7
Harriet Hass
Colleen Malueg, Caroline Caroline #456-8
Merit Scholarship
Grace Havel, Casco Luxemburg #262-9

Department Presidents
(3) \$1,000 awards
Taylor Doolittle, Cumberland Cumberland #98-10
Emma Lubinsky, Holmen Holmen #284-7
Kate Fechner, La Crosse West Salem #51-7

Van Deuren Memorial
(1) \$1,000 award
Lucas Stoen, Waunakee Waunakee #360-3

Past Presidents Parley
(3) \$1,000 awards
Nursing
Jacy Krueger, Waupun Waupun #210-6

Health Career
Hannah Dobish, Oshkosh Dept Headquarters #2930
Brinn Tedlie, New London DeForest #348-3

Child Welfare
(1) - \$1,000 award
No qualified applicant

ALABGS SCHOLARSHIPS

Badger Girls State Scholarship
(6) \$500 awards
Samantha Andrea, Hertel
Kavari Brann, Green Bay
MacKenzy King, Eleva
Gabriella Stammer, Menasha
Amelia Werner, Grafton
Reghan Ziegler, Fond du Lac

Eileen Knox Memorial Scholarship
(1) \$500 award
Carlee Krueger, Seymour

Harry & Shirley Kuehl Foundation Scholarship
(1) \$500 award
Hailey Treder, Princeton

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship
– National Winner
(awarded \$5,000 from NHQ)
Eric Andreo, Chippewa Falls

Member Loyalty Scholarship
– National Winner
(awarded \$2,500 from NHQ)
Emily Fechner, La Crosse

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship
No qualified applicant

Spirit of Youth for Junior Members Scholarship
No qualified applicant



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN ALA IN THE KNOW (Important Info for Every Member) 2025 REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 2025
(Please submit one form per person)

Members are encouraged to register early---space is limited! Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Registrations received after capacity is reached, will be returned. **No reservations will be accepted on site. Reservation deadline for all sessions is AUGUST 1st.**

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, 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, Q&A

Reservation deadline for ALL sessions: August 1, 2025

Please print clearly:

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

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Email: _____ Preferred Ph: ☐ home ☐ cell: (____) _____

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

Select One:

	DATE	LOCATION
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, 09/13/2025	American Legion Post 146 300 Beichl Avenue, Beaver Dam, WI
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, 09/20/2025	American Legion Post 98 1225 Veterans Street, Cumberland, WI
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, 09/27/2025	American Legion Post 59 803 N Page Street, Stoughton, WI
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, 10/04/2025	American Legion Post 175 302 N Union Street, Loyal, WI

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (\$25/person): \$_____

Mail check, payable to ALA-Wisconsin, by August 1st 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.

2025 American Essay Winners

“What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?”

Class I – Grades 3 & 4

Mila Elbe Plum City #365
Isla Elchert Thorp #118
Isaiah Larsh Appleton #38
Anna Cuper Clear Lake #108
Sawyer Peterson Siren #132

Class IV – Grades 9 & 10

Holden Juip Port Washington #82
Josephine Vetterkind Thorp #118
Elise Kolar Butternut #272
Callen Drews Cambria #401
Mieka Kojima Menomonee Falls #382

Class II – Grades 5 & 6

Brieson Anderson Avoca #335
Aralynn Elfering Twin Lakes #544
Bluebell Gremminger Port Washington #82
Holden Oliphant Viola #447
Brynlee Mueller Richland Center #13

Class V – Grades 11 & 12

Karalyn Krubeck Cambria #401
Hannah Van Gelderen Menomonee Falls #382
Brent Abramczak Thorp #118
Lizzie Henn Plum City #365
Elyse Janssen King #161

Class III – Grades 7 & 8

Ethan Andresen Twin Lakes #544
Birdie Gremminger Port Washington #82
Justelle Ogden Plum City #365
Tenley Haas Thorp #118
Natalee Lueloff Butternut #272

Class VI

Carson Gooding Shiocton #512



TOMAH VA BABY SHOWER

7th District held a Baby Needs Drive for the Tomah VA Women’s Clinic during their April 29th Spring Conference. Pictured in the 4 person photo is Helene Stein Tomah VA Hospital Rep, Jesse Elmhurst 7th Dist President, Chet Faith 7th District Commander, Jim Johnson 7th District SAL Commander. 2 person Photos are Helene Stein Tomah VA Hospital Rep and Tondra Arenz, RN, BSN Women’s Health Care Nurse Coordinator. The donations took 2 car loads to deliver!

District 1 – Year in Review



Crystal Shaw
1st District
President

The theme was “May your Journey always lead you home.” First District VA&R Chair had a very special project and chose Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin as homeless veterans are dear to our hearts. We worked together with the First District Legion Family and co-hosted a bowling fundraiser raising over \$4,000.

When Hurricane Helene hit, many of our units and counties truly felt for everyone affected. There were so many Legion families affected as well as veterans. Many units and a few counties participated in efforts to help in any way that they could. This also really got units brainstorming for ways to support the Auxiliary Emergency Fund for President Becky’s special project.

Our District also participated in the 1st District POW/MIA silent March. This is hosted by The American Legion 1st District and it is so meaningful to be able to participate in it as a family. Such perfect and needed year for the projects of choice! Thank you, Becky, for thinking of those members in need.

Be The One is so very important and makes the family closer. Members throughout the district show support in so many ways. They not only call and check on members of the Auxiliary but the whole Legion family. I am very proud of our District’s support of this very needed program. Due to this mindset, members were kind, compassionate, and ready to recruit members. First District had over 60 new members this year and is still growing.

Through all of these amazing successes and so many more, I am so very proud to be part of First District and couldn’t have asked for a better First District leadership team and board!

District 2 – Year in Review



Sandy Mack
2nd District
President

Second District has been a pleasure to be a part of. Through this past year the units have been serving the Auxiliary mission. They have had spaghetti dinners, pork chop dinners, steak dinners, craft shows, Christmas craft making, rummage sales, pancake breakfast, brat fry, fish dinner, car shows, fashion show, meat raffles, bingo and more.

Units participated with the Trunk or Treat in Portage, participated in the Legion Riders Stu’s Cruise, while others joined the Riders at their stops to provide donations.

Members attended flag disposal ceremonies, Four Pillars ceremony/dinner, department convention, and national convention. Ozaukee County Unit 288 located in Cedarburg hosted an ALAITK, and some members attended the Midwinter Conference.

A training meeting was held throughout each county inviting Unit Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers to learn about the importance of each position. A mock meeting was also held whereas 2nd District Officers were asked to pick a folder, and that position would be their role to play; in the back of the room two members were causing distractions, demonstrating the objective of how that should be handled. Each of the 2nd District Program Chairs had the opportunity to get up and give a brief idea of what the program is, then we had Q&A. A Suicide Prevention Class was provided to the 2nd District Legion Family.

Thank you to my 2nd District family for the support and encouragement I have received. Your team spirit and the volunteer hours truly make a difference in the eyes of our veterans, military and their families both at home and abroad from the very depth of your heart.

Together we can make a difference! Remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach our children the value of freedom!

District 3 – Year in Review



Noreen Schmidt
3rd District
President

The Third District members followed President Becky’s theme of “*Serving from the Heart*.” Members volunteered 29,734 hours serving our nation’s veterans and active military, with \$49,767 total dollars spent. 9,255 poppies were distributed and raised \$24,262. One unit donated \$1,500 of their poppy money to the “Shield of Sisters.” Both senior and junior members came together to write Valentines, Veterans Day, and Christmas cards with a personal message inside and sent to various veterans’ care facilities. Food was collected and donated to the VA hospital’s food pantry in Madison, quilts and homemade cloth “goodie bags” filled with personal hygiene products, baby items and requested clothing items were also donated. Veterans taking part in the Badger Honor Flight or the Lone Eagle were remembered with cards and letters for their “mail call.”

Units prepared over 500 Purple-Up bags and donated \$1,400 to “Camp Serenity,” a youth camp for military kids supported by the Wisconsin Army National Guard at Camp American Legion. Units supported Kelley Nelson, author of “Brownie the War Dog” and Yaiyia Wischki with All 4Hope, Inc., an organization to stem the tide of bullying, self-harm and suicide in our youth, military and veterans’ communities. Members support the monthly “Military Kids Group” in conjunction with the Army National Guard. Cookies were also donated to the 115th Fighter Wings’ Christmas party.

Community service is important to the Third District, as we work with the Rotary Holiday Lights in the park, the annual Salvation Army’s Christmas Bell Ringing project, and hosting an annual breakfast with a local Girl Scout Troop. We also work in conjunction with local VFW Posts’ fundraisers.

The good news is that one unit has revitalized with another in the process.

Third District truly serves from the heart!

District 4 – Year in Review



Kathy Grom
4th District
President

As I near the end of my two-year term, I would like to reflect on why we are all here. I want to talk about Service to Veterans. The ways we accomplish that are as varied as our individual personalities. This year we donated to children’s groups and held parties for the children of our veterans. We celebrated birthdays and held memorial events when we were called on to do so.

We held food drives, craft fairs, rummage sales, and raffles. We made spaghetti dinners and pancake breakfasts. We cooked everything from hot dogs to soup to raise money. We volunteered at the VA hospital to serve those who need assistance. We partnered with our Legion Posts, our SALs, and our Legion Riders when

they needed a hand. We distributed lots of poppies and taught leadership and government through ALA Badger Girls State.

We find that we help ourselves when we help others. Volunteerism gives us a sense of purpose and there is no better recipient of our work than our veterans, military and their families. It has been proven that our own mental health is fostered as we serve others. I want to thank you for all you’ve done in the spirit of service – your work is meaningful to those you serve.

This is the 100th anniversary of Camp American Legion and the 100th anniversary of the first official game of American Legion Baseball. The number 100 is also important as our 4th District went over the 100% membership mark! That hasn’t happened in quite a while. In a time when membership is declining nationally, it is a remarkable feat. We have proven ourselves to be capable and prepared to do anything we put our minds to and I cannot wait to see what we achieve next.

District 6 – Year in Review



Diane Steinert
6th District
President

This has been another busy and productive year for the Sixth District!

The Department Convention in Appleton offered a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our units. Several units received recognition for their outstanding contributions to our programs. Becky Mueller was installed as Department President and her theme, “Serving our veterans, military, and each other from the depths of our hearts,” became the guiding focus for our ALA program work throughout the year.

Omro Unit 234 hosted both the Spring and Fall Conferences. It was encouraging to see representation from so many units, where District Chairs presented program highlights and units reported on their numerous activities, fostering a valuable exchange of information. A sincere thank you to Unit 234 for their hospitality in hosting these events.

The District Impact Report numbers were truly impressive. Our members dedicated over 15,000 volunteer hours to veterans and active-duty personnel, more than 1,600 hours supporting military families, and nearly 24,000 hours invested in our communities. This level of commitment is genuinely inspiring and demonstrates the profound impact our members are making. It was a highly productive year!

The District also achieved significant success in membership. The rechartering of the Auxiliary Unit at Post 351 in Montello stands as a notable accomplishment, and having two counties and thirteen units already surpass 100% membership is outstanding. Our current second-place standing is a testament to the dedication and hard work of everyone involved. Let’s maintain this momentum!

I have thoroughly enjoyed connecting with so many dedicated individuals across the district. Your willingness to serve our veterans, military personnel and their families, and our communities is deeply appreciated. Here’s to another remarkable two years serving as your District President!

2025 9-PIN
TAP BOWLING
TOURNAMENT
RESULTS

(top 3 places in each category)

Team:	
1st Place –	(2619) Betty’s Foxy Bowlers, Unit 437 Mazomanie
2nd Place –	(2418) Bowling Queen Wannabes, Unit 13 Richland Center
3rd Place –	(2354) Bonduel Gals, Unit 217 Bonduel
Doubles:	
1st Place –	(1288) Diana Rittberg/Toni Moegenburg, Unit 355 Grafton
2nd Place –	(1256) Tina Zander/Stacey Stuchliffe, Unit 437 Mazomanie
3rd Place –	(1211) Kathy Olson/Joyce Janson, Columbia County
Singles:	
1st Place –	(820) Barbara Sigmund, Columbia County
2nd Place –	(726) Diana Rittberg, Unit 355 Grafton
3rd Place –	(722) Tina Zander, Unit 437 Mazomanie
All Events:	
1st Place –	(2316) Barbara Sigmund, Columbia County
2nd Place –	(2263) Tina Zander, Unit 437 Mazomanie
3rd Place –	(2048) Diana Rittberg, Unit 355 Grafton

District 7 – Year in Review

Jesse Elmhurst 7th District President

7th District has been busy working on many different projects. We have a unit that helps with a Feed My People program twice a month to help ensure community members aren't going hungry. We also have a couple units that fundraise for American Legion Softball teams, which is something that continues to grow in our area. We have several units doing holiday activities for the Veterans in their area, such as cards or gifts given out for the holidays or Veterans Day.

As a District, we have done a couple fundraisers that several units participated in. We donated several bags filled with basic necessities for homeless veterans. We also did a Baby Shower Fundraiser where several units sent needed baby items to give to the Tomah VA for their Baby Shower Program. The program gives veterans who are having babies some basic necessities to help offset the cost of baby coming. We also have several units that are putting on different activities for the children in their communities. We have activities with the Easter Bunny or Santa just to name a few.

We also have a unit that does a membership drive by doing chicken dinner fundraisers and that has seemed to really help them get several members to pay right away. We had a unit ready to disband, but came back with full leadership and over 100% in membership, an accomplishment we are all so proud of.

These are just a few of the many different activities our units are doing to help enrich the lives of our veterans and our communities.

District 8 – Year in Review



Linda Tryczak
8th District
President

I would like to thank all the units and members for their support and encouragement during these last four years. I will miss everyone.

The units have been working hard on membership. As of May, the 8th District has six units at 100% and several units are within 1-3 members to reach 100%.

Everyone has been doing a fantastic job on fulfilling the ALA mission. From the year-end impact reports I received, members volunteered almost 17,000 hours for veterans, over 4,500 hours for military families, and over 13,000 hours in our communities.

The Fall Conference was hosted by American Legion Post 492 and Auxiliary Unit 107 in Kronenwetter. Six units were represented with 16 people in attendance. 8th District Commander Adam Klapperich, Post 492 Commander Paul Gwindt, and Mosinee Mayor Brent Jacobson brought greetings. President Becky Mueller attended and talked about her special projects. District chairmen and unit reports were given. Reverend John Trewyn spoke about suicide prevention with veterans' programs that he is leading at The High Ground in Neillsville. Detachment Commander Allen Watry brought greetings and spoke about the SAL. We then made flower tray favors.

We held an Executive Board meeting by teleconference in late December.

The Spring Conference was hosted by Waushara County Units Wautoma 317, Hancock-Coloma 343 and Wild Rose 370. Thirteen units, 43 members and two guests attended. We had greetings from Waushara County Administrator Megan Kapp, County Commander Nathan Coward, and District Commander Adam Klapperich. We had a presentation from Peter Running representing 8th District American Legion Riders for Wreaths Across America. Paul and Connie Dobbratz gave an interesting presentation on AARP Fraud Watch Network. We held elections with the following results: Kay Grosskopf-President, Fran Bender-1st Vice President/Membership, Christine Mertes-2nd Vice President, Lorrie Barber-Treasurer, Denise Belongia-Historian, Ruth Henkelman-Chaplain, and Amanda Szalewski-Secretary. One history book was submitted to Department.

District 9 – Year in Review



Sue Keyzer
9th District
President

This year our executive team tried something new. Following along with the department incentives, we set up our own program. In keeping with the Noble 9th, we decided to give a prize of \$90.00 to the units in our district who met the membership incentives set by department. But then we threw in another stipulation. Of the \$90.00 prize, half would go to the unit and half would be donated to a local charity in honor of the unit. The units who won, Carlton #538 donated to Lakeshore Food Pantry, White Lake #524 donated to White Lake Food Pantry, Kewaunee #29 donated to the Kewaunee County Historical Society, and Forestville #372 donated to the Belgian Heritage Center. In this program the district gave back to the units and their local communities.

It also inspired our units. Almost half of our units are over 90% of goal and on the county level, Kewaunee County is over 100%. Washington Island Unit 402 was the winner of the Department Pulsation award and will be honored at Department Convention.

The Noble 9th District has been very active in 2024-2025. From Fish Boils to County Fairs, Golf Scrambles to Fireman's Picnics, our members worked the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. Our units participated in numerous parades, brat fries, Memorial and Veterans Day programs and meals. They sponsored girls to American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State, gave scholarships to graduating seniors and worked in the schools helping out wherever they were needed. This is only a small sample of the work that our members do to support the Veterans, their families and the communities that they live in.

District 10 – Year in Review



Mary Townsend
10th District
President

The 10th District continues to be a shining star with excellence in all we do. The counties, units, and members are working the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary – serving the veterans, military, and communities. Three counties worked on projects. St. Croix County Legion family sent care packages to the troops of the 128th Infantry Battalion from New Richmond. Eau Claire County units worked on collecting supplies for the Bolton Refuge House, a domestic abuse treatment center. Barron County hosted an ALA In The Know Conference.

The units have been very busy with events and projects, with over 55,774 volunteer hours reported. Thirty-three ALA Badger Girls State delegates were sponsored. Education Chairman reported 34 scholarships awarded, for a total of \$11,625.00. Poppy distributions equaled \$48,471. Units donated supplies or money to Camp American Legion, Camp Victory, Homeless Women Veterans Grant Fund, Chippewa Falls Veterans Home, Minneapolis VA, and County VSO's. Many units donated to Department President Becky's special project – the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Some of the VA&R Service to Veterans projects included many Quilts of Valor (one member worked on quilts while undergoing leukemia treatments), holiday cards to veterans, Wreaths Across America, driving veterans to appointments, and one unit created a book to highlight local veterans.

Community Service projects included Halloween events, Christmas events, booths at local fairs, marching in parades, caretakers at local parks, bell ringers, volunteering at churches and care facilities. We highlighted 14 veterans in the "Highlight Our Hero's campaign." Ten units are 100% or above in membership. The District Red, White & Blue Awards presented: Independence Unit - Markers for Members project, Eleva Unit - Coffee with Veterans, and Colfax Unit - 400 Stars for Veterans. The 2025 Unit Member of the Year is from the 10th District, more details at State Convention.

Well done, Mighty 10th!

District 11 – Year in Review



Theresa Schindler
11th District
President

Members of the "illustrious" Eleventh District have truly been 'Serving from the Heart' while working the ALA mission to love our veterans, military, their families and our communities. President Becky Mueller spoke at Fall Conference and encouraged us to love and demonstrate kindness to each other while working together on our events and projects. Units and members did just that as they continued to enhance the lives of so many.

Seven of our 20 units attained over 100% in membership. Eight units achieved renewals in the 90% or 80% range. Thirteen units sent in year-end impact reports with hours and donations that showed generous love for our veterans, military, and communities.

Kennan Unit #362 hosted the District Fall Conference. Two members of the Department Leadership team were guest speakers. They gave attendees direction on mentoring and finding leadership qualities in each individual member. Unit success stories were shared through oral reports and picture boards. A committee was formed to update the District's governing documents. A generous donation to Department President Becky's special project was approved. Joint time with the Legionnaires, food, games, songs, and raffles filled this beautiful autumn day in the Northwoods.

Fifield Unit #532 hosted the Spring Conference. The updated District Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules were approved. Program chairmen gave interesting reports and encouraged use of the department website for additional information. Unit leaders reported local activities and events while showing their beautiful display boards. These oral reports demonstrated member service from the 'depths of their hearts.' Guest speakers from the Helping Hands Quilt Group of Price County showed samples of beautiful patriotic quilts they make and donate to veterans that go on the 'Never Forgotten Honor Flight.' Donations were made to Camp American Legion, ALA Badger Girls State, and the Helping Hands Quilt Group. The Legionnaires and SAL joined the ALA for lunch, raffles, and a memorial service for our deceased members. Sunshine, songs and games, friendships and hugs – all in all, a blessed spring day!

Warmer temperatures not only renew nature but encourage the ALA members of the Eleventh District as we continue to 'Serve our Veterans, Military and Each Other from the Depths of our Hearts.' Poppies are being distributed. New ideas are being brought into fruition. Our souls are being energized.

I am humbled to serve as President of this beautiful northern ALA District. Let's see many of you at Department Convention in Green Bay.

District 12 – Year in Review



Barb McDaniel
12th District
President

Nice going District 12! This year has been a learning experience for me, and it appears the same for many members. The suggestion to use a monthly member tracking worksheet would be a tremendous help for the members completing your unit impact reports. This worksheet can be found on the department website (www.amlegionauxwi.org) under the Forms tab. Thank you all for your efforts and help.

Our units are small, but the range of programs chosen to participate in covers the entire list. The Poppy program made the top choice. Service for Veterans/Military won second place and the bronze award goes to Service for Youth. We have three units which stand out, per the reports I received. They are Grantsburg Unit 185, Cable Unit 487, and Spooner Unit 12.

The year ended on a sad/happy note. Our district lost two units (Centuria Unit 346 and Minong Unit 465), but regained a rechartered unit – Webb Lake Unit 403. Congratulations and welcome back!!!



Jim Johnson
Department
Commander

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Wisconsin American Legion Family,
As you read this issue of the *Badger Legionnaire*, we are well into our busy summer season. June began with a flurry of events: Badger Boys State, the 100th anniversary celebration of Camp American Legion, the Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy, the Cruise for a Cause *Be the One 2025 Ride*, and a visit from our National Commander. Looking ahead, July brings our Department Convention, an event that promises to be both enjoyable and informative. It also marks the close of my term as your Department Commander and the beginning of a new leadership team for 2025–2026.

Throughout this past year, I’ve been blessed with an outstanding and supportive team. Our Department Vice Commanders stepped up in every way, providing steadfast support and leadership. I am humbled by their unwavering commitment to the Wisconsin American Legion. Our Department Officers have always answered the call, offering guidance, logistical help, and spiritual support. Your District Commanders have

asked the tough questions, contributed innovative ideas, and played an integral role in making Wisconsin *#LegionStrong*.

Fellow Legionnaires, thank you for making me proud to serve as your Department Commander. Your dedication, compassion, and tireless efforts have made us stronger and better prepared to serve our fellow Veterans. During my visits, you welcomed me warmly and made me feel right at home. When this journey began, I didn’t expect to know many people. But as I moved from post to post, I found myself leaving with new friends and fond memories. Thank you.

I opened this article with “Wisconsin American Legion Family” because I truly believe we are a family. A family shares love, support, communication, trust, and values. To accomplish our mission, I’ve leaned on that family and felt its support every step of the way. Thank you, each one of you, for making a lasting, positive impact on my life.

With sincere gratitude,

Jim Johnson
Department Commander
The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin



Allen Watry
SAL Detachment
Commander

SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

It is hard to believe we are almost at the end of this Administrative Year, which is also the end of my second term. In my first Badger Legionnaire article (way back in August 2023) I suggested success over coming years could be measured by the following 3 bullet points:

- Staying focused on what we are already doing well. We will continue to grow our membership, turn ALF into a National Program, and continue to expand Freezing for a Reason.
- Growing the visibility of the Sons of

the American Legion in Wisconsin. We will strengthen our connections inside and outside of the Legion Family. We will be visible in our communities and the Legion Family. And we will continue to be Proud of what we do!!

- Supporting those in need in our communities as a part of the Be The One Campaign.
- I would like to personally thank everyone for all your hard work and dedication over the last two years. What I have witnessed as I have traveled around Wisconsin the last 2 years suggests we have been very successful. Thank you for your efforts and dedication to our Mission. You have definitely “adopted in letter and spirit all of the great

principles for which the American Legion stands and you are assisting in carrying on for God and Country”.

Very soon we will be holding our Summer Convention in Green Bay. While Convention is a time which we need to conduct key business (including the election of our next Detachment Commander), it is also a time to celebrate our accomplishments. Please consider attending and celebrating with us!!

Keep up the great work and see you at Summer Convention!!

For God and Country,

Allen Watry
WI SAL Detachment Commander.



Corey Doehrmann
State Director
American Legion
Riders Association

LEGION RIDERS DIRECTOR

Hello Summer! My fellow Wisconsin Legion Family, I am very happy that summer has finally arrived. There is something about the sunshine and warmer weather that really energizes me and not just because I can get out on my motorcycle. Okay, so that may only be half true but summer is when most of the Legion Rider work is accomplished. We just had our May quarterly meeting on the 3rd, thank you to Norris-Spencer Post 263 in New London for hosting us! At that meeting, we had the honor of having Department Commander Jim Johnson visit and conduct the swearing in of our new officers. Our terms are a bit different from the American Legion; they will run May 2025 – April 2027. I am very honored to have been elected to a second term as Director. One of the goals I will continue to focus on is connecting the rider districts across the state more tightly, encouraging them to work together. To that end, we will have our third annual social ride-in. This year is again at Hoozels at the Lakes on August 2, so if

you are a rider put that date on your calendar and join in. Another goal is to continue building the connections among our American Legion Family because I firmly believe we are stronger when we work together.

The Wisconsin Legion Riders – Cruise for a Cause, ‘Be the One for WI – 25’ will be happening shortly after you receive this publication on June 27-29. Follow our website (<http://www.alrawis.org/C4C/index.html>) and Facebook page (American Legion Riders Wisconsin) for all the updates as we travel throughout Districts 2, 3, 7, 10, 11 and 8. We would love to see you at one of our stops or as we travel through your community. We will be using an app this year called Spotwalla that will allow you to visit a webpage and follow our progress in real time. It will update our location every 5 minutes while we are moving and we can post pictures there as well.

If you have any questions about the Wisconsin Legion Riders don’t hesitate to contact me: Corey Doehrmann/State Director, cell 262-305-0305 or email at alrawi.director@gmail.com. Our next meeting/event after the publication of this will be at 12 p.m. on August 2 at Hoozels at the Lakes.



Becky Mueller
2024-2025
Department
President

PRESIDENT’S
MESSAGE

Greetings! Spring Conferences are over – what wonderful reports our units, counties, and districts made. You have accomplished so much! Thank you for your invitation to celebrate with you. You are truly amazing.

Final reports have been sent in and reviewed. The numbers are being counted. Your impact is amazing. These reports are forwarded to the national organization and then on to Congress. Congratulations and well done!

Summer is coming – but that doesn’t mean we get to take it easy – things in the Auxiliary are heating up. ALA Badger Girls State is just around the corner. The craziest, busiest week of our calendar. One you will not regret, once you get rested up again! Then on to Department Convention where we will celebrate our members and the difference each of them has made in the lives of others. Finally, off to National Convention – a week in Tampa Bay, Florida. What a way to end the summer.

I can’t thank you enough for the ways you have embraced my theme of *serving from the depths of your hearts*. You have reached deep inside yourselves to be generous, loving and caring for each other. You have made a difference. You have helped so many people with your overwhelming support of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. People you will never meet or get to know, but they know you from your heartfelt gifts. Your support and willingness to learn more about our MIA/POWs is impressive. Letting those families know that we care and that we are going to hold our government accountable to bring them all home is so important. Continue to reach out and advocate for those families. They are part of our family. Thank you from the depth of my heart.

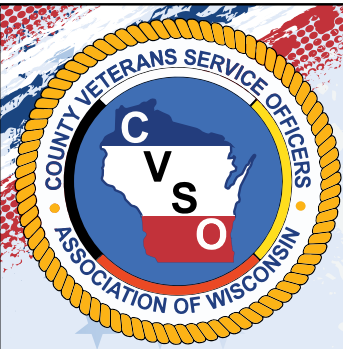
Now change is coming again – new leadership on all levels, new themes, new projects, new goals and objectives. A challenging time to shift gears and refocus. But what an opportunity to once again be innovative and creative! To explore and challenge ourselves to continue to fulfill our mission and vision. To continue to *Serve our Veterans, our Military, and Each Other from the depths of our hearts*.

God bless each one of you and your families.

**Veterans
Crisis Line**



DIAL 988
then **PRESS 1**



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