



Department of Wisconsin
District Eleven
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February / March

****Winter Blessings:** Heavenly Father, we thank You for all Your blessings. America and its leaders need your continued guidance. We ask for strength of nation and peace for the world. Protect our military men and women and their families. Be with The American Legion Family and our leaders that we will glorify Your name in all that we do. Amen.

****Membership:** District units at or above 100% include: Odanah Unit #25, Mercer Unit #424, Kennan Unit #362, Fifield Unit #532, Boulder Junction Unit #451, Lublin Unit #547, and Land O Lakes Unit #464. Great job! So proud of you! Rib Lake Unit #274 needs only two more members. Remember that membership is everyone's job!

****Unit Tri-fold Boards:** Is there a designated person in your Unit compiling the Unit's tri-fold board with pictures of Unit events, highlights, officers, etc. to bring and share at the District Spring Conference in April? The following District 11 Units have shared pictures and/or articles with me for the District board that I am working on: Minocqua Unit #89, Mercer Unit #424, Three Lakes Unit #431, Lublin Unit #547, and Butternut Unit 272. I am requesting that all other Units please send me at least 3 – 4 pictures ASAP. Thanks!

****February Americanism: February 3rd is Four Chaplains Day.** Do you know the story of the four Army chaplains who courageously gave their life vests to four other soldiers during the sinking of the USS Dorchester when it was torpedoed by a German submarine in 1943? Have you ever participated in a Four Chaplains memorial service? Or visited a monument in honor of the Four Chaplains? Perhaps this is something to research and report on for your February Unit meeting or during a February American Legion family event.

This year Presidents' Day will fall on Monday, February 17th. Originally this day celebrated George Washington. Later, it was a day to honor both Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. Now it is a day to honor all of our US presidents.

Valentine's Day, February 14th, is a day to show/share love in special ways. Perhaps your Unit can show extra love to our Veterans by making and delivering Valentine cards to local Veterans (perhaps those in care facilities) and/or active-duty military. Also, share love with your local American Legion family via a card, phone call, or buddy check! Reach out and lift spirits with a little "love".

February is also a great time to get into your local schools and promote the Americanism Essay Contest. The Essay Cover Sheet, Criteria and Rubric sheet, and Flow Chart are all located on the Department website: www.amlegionauxwi.org, under the Programs tab, Americanism tab The essay title this year is: "What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?" Units select from the submitted essays the top one from each category. Send only these top essays to the Department Chairman, Diane Burkhalter, by March 15th. Your Unit may give as many local prizes as you like or perhaps candy or certificates to all participants. Don't forget to take pictures of winners for your Tri-fold board and community newspaper.

****Camp American Legion 100 Year Celebration:** Camp American Legion is a “gem” in our northwoods Eleventh District. Camp will hold its 100th year celebration on June 14, 2025. Consider your Unit, Post, SAL, and Riders all being a part of this milestone celebration. Mark your calendar now and get members of your group excited about this opportunity to attend the celebration and have fun at Camp!

****ALABGS:** If your Unit sponsors delegates to Badger Girls State, the \$500 reservation fee (per delegate) and reservation form was due to Department on January 31st. If you forgot about that deadline, please get it sent in immediately! The form is on the Department website.

February is a great time to visit your high school contact person for ALABGS, look at those delegate applications, and be part of the selection process for the girls your Unit will sponsor.

ALABGS will be held this year June 15 – 20 on the UW-Oshkosh campus. Volunteers are needed for the 2025 ALABGS session. Anyone interested in helping for the week or even a few days should contact Chairman, Danyelle Thompson, at alabgs.chairman@gmail.com A list of opportunities is posted at www.alabgs.org under the About Us tab.

****Updating Documents:** Does your Unit take a look at your Constitution and Bylaws and your Standing Rules periodically? Is it time to update or amend? During our District Fall Conference a committee was formed to examine the District Eleven Documents. This committee will be meeting to update these documents. The Constitution and Bylaws must comply with National and Department documents. The Standing Rules shall reflect our District’s specific situation. We look forward to this committee’s report and recommendations at the District Eleven Spring Conference.

****11th District Spring Conference:** Mark your calendar for this important District gathering.

When: Saturday, April 26, 2025. Beginning at 9:00 am

Where: Auxiliary will meet at Fifield Fire Station, N13936 Flambeau Ave., Fifield, WI

Legionnaires will meet at Fifield Town Hall, W7213 Pine St., Fifield, WI

Lunch to be catered by Country Cafe and served at the Fire Station. Menu and cost are not yet known.

****Reporting:** Are you actively tracking your volunteer hours and donations in preparation for the Year-End Impact Numbers Report? Unit members need to give their member tracking sheet to the Unit president by April 1st. Unit presidents need to total the member numbers and get the Unit Report to me by April 15th. Then, I tabulate all District numbers and send on that report. Eventually, our numbers end up before Congress to help legislate benefits for our Veterans. See the Annual Reports tab on the ALA website: www.amlegionauxwi.org. Unit Reports will need to be sent to me **prior** to Spring Conference.

****Public Relations:**

District facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/263103390765112>

****March Oratorical Contest:** Do you want to be “awed” by amazingly talented High School scholars? Then plan to attend The American Legion’s Oratorical finals on March 29, 2025, at Ripon College in Ripon, WI. The event will be held in the Todd Wehr building on the campus. Opening ceremonies begin at 9 am and the speeches begin at 10:00 am. You will be totally “awed” by the knowledge and articulation skills of these young citizens. What a great opportunity for a Unit field trip!

