



WISCONSIN



American Legion Auxiliary
P.O. Box 140
Portage, WI 53901

alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

The official publication of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

www.amlegionauxwi.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Joyce E. Endres
Department
President

A new year, a new beginning to 'Share Your Life' and fulfill the American Legion Auxiliary mission serving five generations of veterans through membership, service hours and dollars donated. National President Nancy Brown-Park reminds us to 'Pass It On.' Pass on our legacy of service so there are enough dedicated members to serve the new generation of veterans. In 2014, renew your commitment to the ALA. If not now, when? Encourage two-way communication during unit meetings to find different ways to retain, rejoin and recruit volunteers and members to pass on our legacy for God and Country.

Official visits to Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain, Wisconsin Veterans Homes at King and Union Grove, the Union Grove Homeless Center, Middleton VA Medical Center in Madison, and Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee

helped the American Legion Family further understand the changing needs of veterans. We visited the Poppy Shop and watched in amazement as veterans made poppies. Shirley Meyer was our hostess, plus served us a delicious lunch. Florence Groth gave me a tour of the Christmas Gift Shop, packed full with your generous donations. We observed volunteers packing gifts for Veterans to share with their families. Hospital representatives and deputies, volunteers, members, officers and staff are precious 'Gems of Service.'

Reciting the ALA mission helps us learn why and who we serve - veterans, communities and youth. Service-not-Self acts of kindness boost our self-esteem and unit morale because we feel and see the joy of service. Sharing our blessings with others brings a renewed source of energy back into our lives and reenergizes our commitment to the ALA. Your membership and service makes a difference!

I ask each member and unit to try something new this year. I am overjoyed to hear from members

and officers about changes they implemented because of the "But we've always done it this way" button! Volunteer to try something new and change what isn't working so we continue to be a viable organization for the next generation. Change enables us to try new ideas and implement a new/revised program, fundraiser or event to engage members. Being an engaged member renews your commitment.

When your new project succeeds beyond your expectations shout it out through Public Relations. If it fails, learn and remember a quote from my Dad, "People make mistakes, that is why we have erasers on the end of pencils" or in today's world the undo or delete buttons!

"Challenges are what make life interesting, and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful," Joshua Marine.

Forget the troubles that pass your way and remember the blessings that come each day with a smile.

Joyce Endres
Department President

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin

PRESIDENT JOYCE E. ENDRES

extends you a most cordial invitation
to attend her

TESTIMONIAL OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, March 29, 2014

at The East Side Club of Madison

3735 Monona Drive • Madison, WI 53714

www.escmadison.com

Open House from 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Program at 2:30 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar

NAMES ATTENDING:

Please reply before March 14, 2014

\$12.00 per person

Make checks payable to Joyce E. Endres

Send reservation to: Joyce E. Endres

1147 Fleetwood Ave, Madison WI, 53716-1417

We wish you all a Happy New Year!



MEMBERSHIP

Laura Calteux
Department Membership
Chairman

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a happy and joyous Christmas.

As the New Year begins, we need to continue working on membership renewals. A member failing to pay annual dues by January 31st shall be classed as delinquent and suspended from all membership privileges. We want to make sure those members know they are no longer eligible for benefits and need to pay their dues. Now is the perfect time to make that personal call to remind members why they

joined the Auxiliary - to honor the veteran in their life and to let them know they are a very important part of your unit. Every member has something to contribute, so when you make that renewal call, ask your members what they would like to do for the Auxiliary in honor of their veteran.

Recruiting new members can seem difficult after you have asked all of your family and friends to join. Looking into your communities and asking eligible women to volunteer for your unit projects, not join, will show them what we do and may be all it takes for them to want to become a member.

You can target groups in your community such as family members of active military, college campuses, local professionals and faith-based groups. Making ourselves visible in the community by helping at a local nonprofit or sponsoring an Auxiliary event will let everyone know that the Auxiliary exists and make them wonder how they can get involved too. And don't forget to tell everyone what we do and why we make a difference. It just might entice them to join.

Don't forget to contact members who have dropped their membership more than two years ago. Send them a letter letting them know what your unit has been doing for our veterans and that you would like to have them rejoin. Let them know what programs you are working on in your unit and ask if they have any ideas to help. Getting them involved may help them make the decision to rejoin.

But whatever you do to reach your unit's membership goal, remember why we are members of the American Legion Auxiliary; our mission - **In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of**

the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Share Your Life, Be Gems of Service.

YOUR TEAM:

Laura Calteux, Chairman

Berne Baer, UD & R

Ruth Mengsol, UD & R

Morgan Johnsen, Junior Member



SHARE YOUR LIFE

SHARE YOUR LEGACY



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Char Kiesling
Department Chaplain
Music Chairman
Ph: (920) 725-0121
Email: charbabyrn@yahoo.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR ONE AND ALL!

With the New Year, we must keep our Military, near and far, in our thoughts and prayers. Many were not with their loved ones this holiday but we hope for their return in this New Year, whole in both body and spirit. We celebrate another new beginning and are making resolutions to fulfill our obligations to these servicemen and women, our Veterans and their families. Our goals are mighty indeed but so is our resolve!

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you are MIGHTY TO SAVE. Lead us through the New Year and keep our goal to SHARE OUR LIFE ever on our agendas. Let the joy that fills our hearts be the great peace we wish our loved ones and those we serve. We pray in the New Year that you will continue to be with those who are hurting and lonely and comfort them with your amazing love and grace.

Amen

MUSIC

AULD LANG SYNE

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And days of auld lang syne?

Refrain:
For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup of kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

SEASON'S BLESSINGS TO THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY:

Friendship to bring you happiness and laughter,
Hope to bring you peace and promise,
Love to bring you comfort and JOY!



GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

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

Happy New Year! May the year ahead bring peace, health and happiness!

The American Legion Commander and Auxiliary President are in the midst of conducting their annual visits to the VA hospitals and veterans homes. The purpose of these visits is to give the department leadership the opportunity to inspect each facility, meet with the directors to discuss specific ways that the American Legion Family can support the veterans, and to review issues that should be addressed with Legislators during the Washington DC Conference in March. These official visits are much more effective when conducted in small groups. Members interested in touring any of the VA facilities are encouraged to contact the respective Auxiliary hospital representative to arrange a visit that would fit the schedule for both the visitor(s) and the hospital staff.

Next week, National Headquarters will mail renewal notices to anyone whose

2014 dues were not processed at Department by December 6th. If you receive a notice but think your dues are paid, please verify with your Unit Membership Chairman that the payment was forwarded to Department. Until your dues are processed at headquarters, your membership is considered delinquent.

Units should be reviewing the Contest & Awards information that was mailed in November and planning which activities they want to participate in. This information is also posted on the Department website. Questions? Please contact the appropriate program chairman as listed in the packet.

Members should report their Annual Report activities to their Unit President by April 1st. Unit Presidents submit their Unit Annual Reports to the District Presidents by April 15th and District Presidents report to Department by April 30th. Units should send narrative reports to Department by May 1st. President Joyce will review these reports to select the President's Awards of Excellence that are presented at Department Convention.

Check out the ALA Badger Girls State website (www.badgergirlsstate.org) for up-to-date information on the 2014 AL-ABGS session and orientations as they are scheduled.

Each month (except July and December), program information is sent to Unit Presidents from Department Headquarters to be shared with their members at Unit meetings. This information is also posted on the Department website (under Unit Mailings) for anyone who wishes to read the information on their own.

The Auxiliary has more than \$25,000 in scholarship awards available at the state and national levels. Scholarship applications may be obtained from Unit Presidents, high schools or from the ALA website. Scholarship applications are due in March! See directions on each scholarship for specific details.

If you have not submitted your Poppy Order for 2014, please do so ASAP. If you placed an order last year but haven't sent your 20% poppy profit report to Department, your order will be delayed until this is reported.

LEGISLATIVE

Diana Sirovina
Department Chairman
Email: sirovina@att.net

As an Auxiliary member, you can become informed about issues that affect our veterans and active duty military by supporting the legislative agenda of The American Legion with elected officials at all levels of government. You can find out what the legislative priorities of The American Legion are by going to www.legion.org/legislative.

Once you are familiar with legislation that affects our veterans and active duty military, you should contact your Senator or Representative. You can do this in the traditional way by writing a personal letter to them. Remember to be courteous, brief and to the point, and address

only one issue in your letter. Explain why you feel they should support and sponsor the legislation you are writing about. Don't forget to include the bill or resolution number and your contact information. Be aware of time sensitive issues, as it can take 4 to 6 weeks for the letter to reach the Congressional Office.

If you choose to send an email, be sure to put the reason for your email in the subject line. Keep to the subject, be concise and accurate. Be polite and courteous, never accusatory. Include your contact information at the end of your email. Remember to report any correspondence to your Unit and District Legislative Chairman for their end-of-year reports.

You can find specific contact information on your Senator by going to

www.senate.gov or your Representative by going to www.house.gov. While you are there, why not sign up for their newsletter?

A great resource you should have is the American Legion Auxiliary Legislative Advocacy Guide. It contains pertinent information about advocacy, building relationships, issues, personal visits, building rapport with congressional staff, communicating with your legislator, sample letters and legislative websites. It is available online at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

You can find more information on the Legislative Plan of Action by going to the National website www.ALAforVeterans.org or our Department website www.amlegionauxwi.org.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY CONFERENCE OF UNITS Invites all Auxiliary, Legion and SAL members to attend

The 88th Annual George Washington Luncheon

President's Day
Monday, February 17, 2014

Klemmer's Banquet Center
10401 W Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee WI

Cocktails - 10:30 am
Opening Ceremonies - 11:45 am
Lunch - 12:00 noon
Cost - \$18.00 per person

Make checks payable to MCCU
Send your reservations to:
MCCU Secretary/Treasurer, Diana Sirovina
9428 W Eden Pl, Milwaukee, WI 53228-1410

For information contact Diana Sirovina, 414-321-1479

Reservation deadline:
FEBRUARY 7, 2014 - NO EXCEPTIONS!!

88th Annual George Washington Luncheon Registration

Make checks payable to: MCCU

Send to: Diana Sirovina,
9428 W Eden Pl, Milwaukee, WI 53228-1410

Unit Name & Number: _____

Unit Contact & Phone: _____

Name of Each Person Attending:
Auxiliary, Legion, SAL, Guest

Amount Enclosed:

Number of Reservations _____ X \$18.00 _____

WALASBA BOWLING

Anna Graham
Bowling Chairman
Ph: 608-225-8579
Email: agraham092802@yahoo.com

Mark your calendars! Spring is coming and the dates of April 5 & 6 and April 12 & 13, 2014 are the days you need to reserve for the Annual 9-Pin Bowling Tournament. This Tournament is for YOU, the American Legion Auxiliary Member. This is the time to get out and reacquaint with friends as well as make a new one, or two or twenty! Green Bay Unit 11 is hosting this year's tournament at Rivera Lanes in Green Bay.

The registration form will be sent to each team captain participating in last year's tournament and will be included in the January Unit mailing and posted on the Department website (www.amlegionauxwi.org). Please read the entry form carefully. **Only the Unit Membership Chairman and/or Presi-**

dent are designated to sign the form. Team Captains - It is your responsibility to replace absent bowlers. The Bowling Committee or the Host Unit are not responsible for finding replacement bowlers. Entry forms should be mailed to Tournament Manager Jenni Syftestad, 205 Thompson Street, Verona, WI 53593. Be sure to submit your entries by the deadline indicated. Questions? Contact Jenni at (H) 608-845-7857, (C) 608-577-1857, or syftes@chorus.net.

Please note: the start times on both Saturdays have changed. Opening ceremonies begin at 10:30 am and bowling starts at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. **Please be at the lanes and registered by 10:15 am.** This time change is to accommodate league bowling scheduled later in the day.

Contact your Unit President if you are interested in forming a bowling team. To be eligible for

this tournament, bowlers must have a 2014 Wisconsin Auxiliary card and be over 18 years of age. This is not a sanctioned tournament so bowling in a sanctioned league is not a prerequisite to participate. Also, if you are interested and don't have a team, or just want to be a substitute, let Tournament Manager Jenni Syftestad know the dates and events you are interested in bowling - **be specific** - team, singles, doubles, all events. Your name will then be available for that weekend or if a team needs someone to bowl.

Have you thought about hosting a WALASBA Bowling Tournament? This tournament is a great money maker for Units. If you are interested in being a host, please contact Jenni Syftestad or me. We are looking for host units for 2015 and future years.

The WALASBA Committee hopes to see you in Green Bay in April!!!

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

Pat Ziarnik
Department Chairman
Ph: 920-496-2291
Email: forjsmom@yahoo.com

There is so much you can do! Your donation to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) could be the very life saving assistance needed to get another Auxiliary member back on her feet. Do you know someone who could use AEF help? Maybe someone who lost her job or is getting a divorce and doesn't

know which way to turn? Or maybe you know a member who feels she isn't qualified to apply?

Here is your opportunity to do something for a fellow Auxiliary member who is in extreme need of assistance due to a financial crisis when no other source of aid is available. The grant can be used to pay for shelter, food and utilities; or to recover from natural disasters (flood, hurricane); or to assist with educational training for

members who lack employment skills or need to upgrade competitive workforce skills.

Why not ask the members to give their loose change at a meeting, sell used books in a library at your clubhouse, or designate a bake sale for AEF donations? Make your donations to AEF so no member has to suffer not knowing where money will come from for her next rent or mortgage payment or for food to feed the family.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Karen Degner
Department Chairman
C: 920-918-9772
H: 920-892-6139
Email: kdegner88@gmail.com
mdegner@wi.rr.com

I would like to thank everyone for all you do for our Wisconsin service members and their families. Here are some additional ways we can help military personnel:

1. Manufacturers' coupons - can be used up to six months

after the expiration date by military families at overseas commissaries. You can find guidance for mailing the coupons and addresses for overseas commissaries at: <http://www.grocerysavings.com/p/military-family.html>.

2. Do you have hotel points or airline miles? You can donate hotel points or airline miles to assist wounded warriors and their families

through the Fisher House at: www.fisherhouse.org.

3. Although May sounds so far away, it's not too early to begin planning for events to observe National Military Appreciation Month. Armed Forces Day is the third Saturday in May, followed by Memorial Day.

4. When you see a veteran, service member or their family members remember to **thank them for their service.**

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

The Christmas Gift Shop is expected to move during the coming months and storage space will be extremely limited.

Please **DO NOT COLLECT ITEMS FOR THE CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP FOR 2014** until we know the capacity of the new facility. Financial donations (gift cards or checks payable to ALA-WI, earmarked "Gift Shop") will be used to purchase items as needed and eliminate storage issues.

HELP WANTED: VOLUNTEER NURSE

A Volunteer Nurse is needed for the 71st Session of American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State (ALABGS) to be held June 15-20, 2014. The nursing staff for ALABGS is looking for a fourth Nurse. A current 2014 Nursing License is required, as is patience and kindness. ALABGS is designed to train future stateswomen in the science of government. The program has grown to over 725 citizens yearly and continues to be a major project of the Department of Wisconsin's American Legion Auxiliary.

Interested and qualified nurses should contact Head Nurse Laurel DuBois at 715-544-0824 (cell).



2014 GOT ONE GEM Award Entry Form

Sign up 1 New 2014 Senior Auxiliary Member OR 2 NEW 2014 Junior Auxiliary Members and receive a 2014 Got 1 Gem pin!

Only 1 pin per year per recruiter (the recruiter can belong to the ALA, TAL or SAL). Transferring and rejoining members DO NOT count.

Submit only one "Got One" form per recruiter per year to the Portage office... **BUT don't stop there!**

Don't forget to enter the National Recruiter Awards to receive a button and a chance to win cash prizes!

(forms available at amlegionauxwi.org or alaforveterans.org)



Submit this completed form to:
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
P.O. Box 140, Portage WI, 53901
Fax: 608-745-1947
Email: alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

Please print clearly

Recruiter: _____

Unit #: _____ Dist. #: _____

Recruiter Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____

Name of New Members:

Sr. Auxiliary: _____

or

Jr. Auxiliary: _____

Jr. Auxiliary: _____

Department President Presents Gifts to VA Hospitals and Veterans Homes

President Joyce presented Robert Beller, Director of Zablocki VA Medical Center, with a check for \$2,000 to purchase a Tri-Wg Mat Table Top for the Rehabilitation Extended and Community Care (Physical Therapy) area and a shuffle board table for the Spinal Cord Unit. This gift, requested by the VA and approved by the Department Executive Board, was possible because of the generous donations made by Auxiliary members and units around the state.



During the Legion's official annual inspection to the Wisconsin Veterans Home in Union Grove, President Joyce informed Commandant Reid Aaron that the members and units of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary purchased and donated one flat screen TV and an Apple iPad for use by the veterans at the Veterans Home.

Second District Supports Homeless Veterans

For the third consecutive year, Second District completed their *Christmas Bags for Homeless Vets* project in December. 170 bags were assembled for the veterans at Domiciliary 123 at Zablocki VA Medical Center. Each bag

contained a hat, gloves, socks, Pick 'N Save gift card, candy, snacks, soup mix, hand and toe warmers, toothbrush, toothpaste and assorted personal care items. Second District VA&R Chairman Linda Faas and co-chair Judy Kuta organized the event and Unit

members from every county in the Second District made a difference in the lives of the veterans receiving the bags by purchasing items or donating funds. These members proved they are truly Gems in Service to our veterans.



Pictured are 2nd District volunteers (front row): Charlotte Beecher, Diane Riedl, and Sue Turowski. Back row: Amy Luft, Judy Kuta, Linda Faas, Bev Green, and Ruth Mengsol. These members filled the gift bags and boxed them for delivery.



CALENDAR FUNDRAISER WINNERS NOVEMBER 2013



1	15.00	36838	Plum City Unit #365	Plum City
2	15.00	38490	Heather Treptow	Kimberly
3	25.00	22729	Luanna Fenz	Juneau
4	15.00	22247	June Birschbach	Mt Calvary
5	15.00	16408	Gloria Rindfleisch	Clinton
6	15.00	43136	Virginia German	Black River Falls
7	15.00	01594	Susan Glime	Green Bay
8	15.00	39890	Diane Reigel	Marshfield
9	15.00	15715	Mary Schultz	West Bend
10	500.00	32719	Karen Elsenpeter	Manitowoc
11	500.00	42905	Shelly Danielson	St Cloud MN
12	15.00	35353	Arlene Capra	Cumberland
13	15.00	28334	Connie Nygaard	Madison
14	15.00	46030	Gerry Piotrowski	Pittsville
15	15.00	45090	Katy Findlay	Boulder Junction
16	15.00	32768	Lois Hoida	Luxemburg
17	25.00	42900	Lorraine Olson	Richmond MN
18	15.00	16646	Joyce Phillips	Cross Plains
19	15.00	48177	Eric Vigo	Waukesha
20	15.00	27899	Mary Folstad	Eau Claire
21	15.00	37713	Annette Varien	Spooner
22	15.00	20645	Sharon Bannach	Franklin
23	15.00	44795	Heather Graun	Medford
24	25.00	10413	Jerri Prem	Plain
25	15.00	20712	Kathy Wells	Franklin
26	15.00	35113	Ann McEwen	Barron
27	15.00	36559	Edith Oftedahl	Osseo
28	15.00	36681	Esther Kearby	Sheldon
29	15.00	31861	Alice Mueller	Rhineland
30	15.00	41459	Robert Windschiegl	Hancock

If not cashed within 90 days, the check will be voided without any notification sent to you. If it's after 90 days call our office. We are open Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm. Phone: 608-745-0124.

Poppy Shop Reminder



Orders for 2014 Poppies should be placed with Auxiliary Headquarters by **February 1, 2014** to ensure delivery for May distribution.

Units and Posts that haven't submitted their 2013 Poppy Profit Report **must do so before ordering for 2014.**

The Poppy Order Form is available on the department website (**under Online Forms**) or by calling headquarters at 608-745-0124.