



Department of Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

6th District Newsletter



August 2025

Department Convention is behind us. Congratulations to our new Department Officers!

Sue Hembrook – President

Christina Petranovich – 1st Vice President

Christine Johnsen – Historian

NEC – Maggie Geiger

Amy Luft – Senior Vice President

Betty Stone – 2nd Vice President

Sandy Mack – Chaplain

Sue Hembrook from Milwaukee Unit 537 was installed as our Department President. Her theme is *“Honor Our Country, Support Our Veterans.”* Her special project this year will be *Camp American Legion*.

A few other highlights from convention:

- All proposed changes to the Department Bylaws and Standing Rules were approved.
- A Basket Raffle Fundraiser held during Convention raised over \$6,000 for PDP Becky Mueller’s special project *Auxiliary Emergency Fund*. A huge thank you to everyone who donated those incredible raffle baskets!



2024-2025 Junior Unit of the Year Unit 33, Neenah Vicki Hanson, Jr. Activities Chair

Pictured L to R: Department President Sue Hembrook, Vicki, Claire Burr, Jr. Activities Dept Vice Chair Morgan Johnsen & Chair Christine Johnsen

2025 Department Convention Awards

- 🌸 **Heart of the ALA Award** – Montello Unit 351
- 🌸 **Americanism** – Certificate of Recognition presented to Neenah Unit 33
- 🌸 **Children & Youth** – Certificate of Recognition, Neenah Unit 33
- 🌸 **Education** – Certificate for Legislative Advocacy to St Cloud Unit 478
- 🌸 **Education** – Certificate for Give 10 to Education to Neenah Unit 33
- 🌸 **Past Presidents Parley** – Mentor of the Year – Char Kiesling for her many years of dedicated service to the Department Junior Activities Program.

Congratulations All!!

Membership

Thirteen Units from the District were showcased at Department Convention for reaching or exceeding 100% of membership goal. Nine Units reached 100% by January 31, 2025 and received a flag ribbon: Brillion Unit 126, Stockbridge Unit 128, Two Rivers Unit 165, Omro Unit 234, Berlin Unit 340, Montello Unit 351, Mt Calvary Unit 454, St Nazianz Unit 477, and St Cloud Unit 478. **Outstanding!!** If you did not attend convention, ribbons will be mailed to the Unit President.

Renewals have started for the 2026 Membership year. Unit membership goals, unit and individual award information and forms were included in your membership packets. ***Celebrating the 250th birthday of the United States of America, the Department of Wisconsin Membership theme will highlight "National Parks".*** Note: To be eligible for ***Unit Navigation/Compass Awards*** membership dues must be received by Department HQ PRIOR to the goal date. Units must have the 2025-2026 Unit Officer form submitted to Department with Officers' dues paid.

PAST PRESIDENTS' PARLEY (PPP)

Have you served as a President at the unit, county, district, or department level? If so, you are eligible to join the Past Presidents' Parley! Membership in the PPP is \$7.00 annually and FUNDS THREE SCHOLARSHIPS each year in the nursing and health career fields. Past Presidents at all levels are also encouraged to help develop and mentor new leaders. Questions? Need more info? Contact PPP Chairman Diane Weggen at dsweggen@gmail.com

District Chairmen Vacancies

I am looking for District Program Chairs for the following open positions: ***Americanism, Education, Junior Activities and VA&R.*** The responsibilities of being a District Chairman are that you would be the liaison between the Department Program Chairs and the district, have knowledge of the specific program, and provide a program report at the District Conference.

Please contact me if you have questions or are interested in any of these chairmanships. A full list of District Officers and Chairmen is included with this mailing.

Dates to Remember

- August 25-27, 2025 - National Convention, Florida

Further information regarding our 6th District DEC and 6th District Fall Conference will be sent as soon as arraignments have been finalized.

Diane Steinert

2850 Homestead Dr

Oshkosh, WI 54904

920-573-1846

djdmsteinert@gmail.com

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Committee Chair
Natalia Genovesi King
kinggenovesi@gmail.com
414.839.0454



WWW.AMLEGIONAUXWI.ORG/PUBLICRELATIONS

PUBLIC RELATIONS ZOOM CHAT DATES

FOR THE LEGION FAMILY

630 PM - 8 PM, Wednesdays

September 24, 2025

October 29, 2025

January 28, 2026

February 25, 2026

April 29, 2026

**Members who attended all the Chats will receive an item recognizing their participation*

TOPICS TO INCLUDE

Social Media Hashtags, Sharing Your Story with the Community, Branding, PR & Membership Go Hand in Hand, SMART PR Campaigns, Event Marketing & Post Event Strategies, Cultivating Relationships & Collaborations with Local Businesses, Newsjacking, Maximizing Your Social Media Impact & Engagement, Etiquette, Poppy Day

Please pass this information on to your Post and SAL Commanders, and Legion Rider Directors. Everyone is welcome, and we encourage all members of our Legion Family to join us!

6th District Officers

President – Diane Steinert
2850 Homestead Dr Oshkosh WI 54904
djdmsteinert@gmail.com 920-573-1846

1st Vice President – Linda Lefky
malefky@gmail.com 920-374-1189

2nd Vice President – Mary Raatz
maryraatz@outlook.com 920-570-0015

Treasurer – Beth Puddy
jbpuddy1987@gmail.com 920-948-7930

Secretary – Tracey Koach
tracey62k@gmail.com 847-338-2907

Chaplain – Mary Koslowski
knitter128@yahoo.com 920-725-6989

Historian – Dorothy Gruber
920-464-1190

Sgt at Arms – Daralyn Wessels
daralynwessels5@gmail.com 920-324-5453

Sgt at Arms –Karen Wessels
karenmariewessel387@gmail.com 920-324-5453

Parliamentarian – Diane Duscheck
ddianeddiane@gmail.com 414-967-9116

6th District Committees

Americanism – Vacant

Children & Youth – Char Kiesling
char.kiesing@gmail.com 920-428-5655

C&B –
Diane Duscheck
ddianeddiane@gmail.com 414-967-9116

Patti Westpfahl
pjw1975@ymail.com 920-299-0943

Education – Vacant

Finance –
Diane Duscheck
Patti Westpfahl
Char Kiesling

Juniors – Vacant

Legislative – Char Kiesling
char.kiesing@gmail.com 920-428-5655

Membership – Linda Lefky
malefky@gmail.com 920-374-1189

National Security – Phyllis Schultz
pjs4453@aol.com 708-828-0215

Poppy – Patti Julius
pattijulius@new.rr.com 920-585-0558

Public Relations – Maribeth Wester
maribeth.m.wester@gmail.com 503-974-4706

VA&R – Vacant