



# 10<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026



## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY CHANGES EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

**New Eligibility requirements for the American Legion Auxiliary – Non-gender membership. Updated application Form included with this newsletter.**

**Section 1.** Eligibility for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is determined by The American Legion. The eligibility requirements from The American Legion governing documents shall be provided as a footnote to this Constitution for information purposes and shall be updated as appropriate.

Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the:

- (1) Grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of members of The American Legion; and
- (2) Grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants of all servicemembers who served in either of the following periods: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918 and any time after December 7, 1941 who being a citizen of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either eligibility period and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge;
- (3) Grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants of all servicemembers who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during either of the following periods: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941 who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during either eligibility period and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and
- (4) to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion

**Section 2.** Under the laws of the State of Wisconsin, equivalent step-relatives comply with the provisions of Section 1.

## MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE FROM DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER MARY TOWNSEND

**As Hilda learned at the ALA in the Know and at the Fall District Conference – DON'T HOLD ONTO MEMBERSHIP DUES – SEND IN ASAP. Don't be a Holding Hilda!**

- Don't hold renewals, send them in as they are collected!
- Complete & send Unit Officers Form to Department
- New members application can be signed by Auxiliary Unit Officers (after verification of eligibility)
- Governing documents need to be updated to reflect the new eligibility guidelines
- Pay dues electronically by calling National [\(317\) 569-4570](tel:3175694570) (have your ID# ready)
- PUFL Raffle is taking flight, for all the details contact District President Teresa Steike @ [\(715\) 828-7462](tel:7158287462)
- Membership recruiting tip: Many people use social media to post photos of family members who have served Our Country, send them a private message. First, thank them for their family members service, then chat about Legion Family membership and see if they qualify! You would be surprised at the number of people who didn't know they were eligible. Mary Townsend – Department Membership Blue Team at [getmet77@hotmail.com](mailto:getmet77@hotmail.com)



**Hilda visiting the Eau Claire ALA in the Know – being informed that Memberships must be sent in to Department as soon as possible.**



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## ALA IN THE KNOW 2026 SESSIONS

### *Did you miss the ALA In the Know September/October Sessions?*

Then your in luck another session has been scheduled for Saturday November 7, 2026 at Department Headquarters in Portage. Registrations are due by October 30<sup>th</sup>. The session will be cancelled if we do not receive at least 25 registrations.

Members should email Bonnie at [deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org](mailto:deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org) to let her know how many will be going and then follow-up in the mail with their registration form and payment to secure a seat. The registration form is attached.

## BARRON COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEWS

**Barron County Council Project:** Six members of the Barron County Council volunteered at the Pioneer Village in Cameron for the Ol' Time Fair/Vintage Baseball Event. Two of the members helped serve a chicken dinner, one member helped with the carnival games, and two members ran the refreshment stand, and Barron County ALA President Yvonne Hill surveyed the guests about changes at the Village. As the photo shows, Mary Townsend was "stashed" by a member of a Vintage Baseball team.



**Quilt of Valor:** A Cumberland Post # 98 member, Paul Donatell was presented a "Quilt of Valor" at the Haugen Fun Days event on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Paul just celebrated his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday in July. In the photo presenting the quilt to Paul is Barron County Sherriff, Jodi Kummet.



**We remember:** It is with heavy hearts the Barron County Council announces the passing of Louann Novak. Louann is the Chetek Unit #179 Past President and most recent Unit Chaplain. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup> at The Center in Chetek from 1PM to 4PM, 711 First Street. Our condolences to her family, friends, and Chetek Legion Family. Louann asked that any donations be given to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 179, 1190 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Chetek, WI 54728

## IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

**EFFECTIVE AUGUST 2026, MAILED COPIES OF THE UNIT MAILING WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE VIA SUBSCRIPTION (6 ISSUES FOR \$25, JUNE 2026-JUNE 2027).**

Members who wish to receive a paper copy via US Mail must submit a subscription form and \$25 to department headquarters (available on the unit mailing webpage). Unit mailings will continue to be posted on the department website by the 10<sup>th</sup> of every other month – free for anyone to access!



# 10<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026



## BARRON COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

On Sunday September 20th approximately 150 veterans and families gathered for the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Barron County All Veterans Picnic at the Pioneer Village in Cameron. The opening ceremony included prayers and a devotion title “We Remember” by Pastor Michael Sainburg.

### Greeting were given by the following people:

SAL 10<sup>th</sup> District 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Gary Lubich  
10<sup>th</sup> District ALRA Director Dave Schiedler  
10<sup>th</sup> District Legion Commander Felicia Decker  
Department Legion Commander Steve Kohnke  
ALA Barron County President Yvonne Hill  
10<sup>th</sup> District ALA President Teresa Steinke  
Department ALA President Amy Luft

President Amy Luft shared about her passion to get veterans on Honor Flights. She had information on how veterans could get signed up and on the list. Music was provided by Moonshine Alibi. Everyone enjoyed a tasty chicken dinner which was cooked by the AMVETS Post #888 and served by the Legion Auxiliary members.



## DISTRICT 10 AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL CONTEST

The 10<sup>th</sup> District Oratorical Contest will be held at the Boyd American Legion, 135 N Clark Street, Boyd Wisconsin, on Saturday February 13, 2027 at 1:00pm.

Contestants and their sponsor should arrive by noon – for instructions and preparation.

County Commanders – Please email Chairman Steve Isensee [sisensee1954@gmail.com](mailto:sisensee1954@gmail.com) the Certification Form as soon as you know who the District Contestant is (form is attached).

## HIGHLIGHT OUR HERO'S

This Highlight Our Heroes edition is a focus on the service of a family in Plum City, WI, with highlights of a brother and sister's service. Michael and Susan were both inspired to join the army because of the service of their father in WWII. Their brother, John, who lives in Florida also followed in the footsteps of their father serving in the Navy for 30 years.

**Name:** Michael Klein Legion Post: Plum City Post 365 **Branch of Office:** Army Time Served: 29 1/2 years

**Rank:** Sergeant Major Military Occupation: M1 Armor Crewman

**Places Served:** Germany, S Korea, Fort Hood, TX, Fort Riley, KS, Fort Knox, KY, Fort Bliss, TX

**Military Awards:** Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with V device, 2 Bronze Star Medals, 3 Meritorious Service Medals, 6 Army Commendation Medals, 7 Army Achievement Medals, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, 9 Good Conduct Medals, 2 National Service Medals, SW Asia Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Kuwaiti Liberation Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Gold Recruiter Badge, Combat Action Badge



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## A story of bravery and unwavering commitment

Michael enlisted in the Army at 19, just one year after graduating high school. In many ways, the path had been laid long before. His father was a WWII veteran, and Michael grew up fascinated by tanks, military history, and the idea of serving something bigger than himself. He also dreamed of seeing the world — and he knew the military would give him that chance while allowing him to serve his country. His first duty station took him to Germany during the height of the Cold War during which he was witness to the fall of the Berlin Wall and reunification of Germany. During down time he was able to visit numerous historical battlefields to include Normandy, Holland and Italy. Over the course of his career, Michael served in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, Kuwait, and S Korea, and spent three years as an Army recruiter. For 37 years, he has also been a proud member of the Plum City American Legion. Throughout his service, Michael earned numerous awards, including a Bronze Star Medal for Valor. On a harrowing day in Iraq in April 2004, during an uprising of Saddam Hussein loyalists near Abu Ghraib. Michael's unit had been ordered to secure a milk factory after a nearby Army patrol base came under attack. Skirmishes echoed through the area regularly, but one morning the gunfire grew closer and more intense. A Humvee suddenly barreled down the road, sputtered out, and stopped right in front of the gate — riddled with bullet holes. Soldiers were rushed inside to the medics stationed in the factory. They reported that their convoy had been ambushed. Within minutes, more vehicles limped in, each one damaged by gunfire and carrying wounded soldiers or civilian contractors. At one point, even a fuel truck arrived, leaking gasoline from bullet holes punched through its tank. Then SFC Klein's unit pulled everyone they could into the factory for safety and medical care. But knowing the fighting was still raging and fellow Soldiers and civilians were missing, they went back out — three times — pushing through small arms fire, IEDs and road barricades to reach more trapped Soldiers and contractors. By the end of the day, Michael's platoon had rescued 21 Soldiers and civilian contractors. It was just one example of the courage Michael and his fellow Soldiers showed throughout their deployment to Iraq — a testament to the bravery, grit, and unwavering commitment that defined his military career.

**Name:** Susan (Klein) Sanders Legion Post: Plum City Post 365 **Branch of Office:** Army Time Served: 20 years

**Rank:** E7-Sgt First Class Military Occupation: Food Service Manager

**Places Served:** Germany, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Panama

**Military Awards:** Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, 5 Army Achievement Medals, 5 Good Conduct Medals, 3 National Defense Service Medals, SW Asia Service Medal, Kuwaiti Liberation Medal

## The story

Susan also followed in her father's footsteps, proudly serving 20 years in the United States Army and rising to the rank of E7 — Sergeant First Class. Throughout her career, she worked in food service and as a purchasing agent, roles that demanded precision, leadership, and grit. During Desert Storm, Susan supervised the meal preparation for 400–600 troops every single day. Her responsibilities didn't stop in the kitchen — she also provided security and transportation, driving soldiers to remote desert locations where they were needed most. Later, while serving in Saudi Arabia as a purchasing agent, she faced cultural restrictions that prevented women from corresponding with Saudi men. She had to rely on a male civilian liaison just to do her job. Eventually, the king of Saudi Arabia loosened the rule, allowing her to work directly and independently — a moment she remembers vividly. Her service took her around the world. In Panama, she ran a facility while raising her two children. During one of her tours in Germany, she played softball, including games in Berlin. She still recalls the stark contrast of the landscape when she caught a glimpse over the Berlin Wall — a sight that stayed with her. For 37 years, Susan has continued her service through the Plum City American Legion. She has been the adjutant for many years and leads the Post's kitchen. She is one of the driving forces behind the famous Plum City Legion spring fish fries, and she organizes, stocks, and sells food at Plum City Blues baseball games each summer. She also helps plan the annual Plum City Legion Summerfest every July. A dual member of both the Legion and the Legion Auxiliary, Susan supports veterans and the community through the work of both organizations. Her service extends far beyond the Legion: she has contributed to the Pierce County ADRC, the Plum City and Bay City Senior Centers, Plum City Library programs, blood drives, and countless other volunteer efforts. Though she wore the uniform for 20 years, Susan has been serving America, veterans, and her community for an incredible 51 years — a lifetime of dedication that continues to make a lasting impact.



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## CHILDREN & YOUTH

Fall is upon us and our children and youth are back in school busy with sports, band, etc. This is the time you want to include this program in your Unit. The C&Y program develops, implements and monitors programs and activities that contribute to the physical, mental and emotional health and wellness of all children, especially our military families.

Units are encouraged to submit nominations for the Youth Hero Award and the Good Deed Award. These awards are presented throughout the year to recognize the heroism and helpfulness of our youths under the age of 18.

Also, if you know any children whose parents are deployed, why not present them with an A.L.F. dog.

Margaret Larson, Chairman

email: [maggiedoit@hotmail.com](mailto:maggiedoit@hotmail.com)

## CHECK OUT THE GENERAL INFO PAGE ON THE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE

To get there go to the Department Website at <https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/> under Programs & Initiatives, page down to Initiatives and select HQ-General Info.

A great tool is the Deadline Charts – Forms and Awards – Take a look a great tool to know what Events – Forms – Scholarship - Awards are due and where and how to send them.

You will also find:

- Department Officer/Chairman visit request form
- Date to Remember
- Preamble to the Constitution
- ALA Guide Book
- ALA Manual of Ceremonies
- ALA Branding Guide
- 2025-2026 ALA Department of Wisconsin Statistics

**Who shops on Amazon? Do you shop on Amazon?** Turn everyday Amazon shopping into donations to ALABGS – *at no additional cost to you!* Click on the link every time you shop and a percentage of your purchase automatically goes to ALA Badger Girls State! [Amazon: Donate to ALABGS](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

|                    |                                                                                                  |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 8-10, 2026 | Department Fall Meetings – American Legion Headquarters                                          |
| November 7, 2026   | ALA in the Know – at Department Headquarters in Portage                                          |
| September 12       | Harvest Fest – Cleghorn WI parade – lineup at 11:00am                                            |
| September 12       | ALA in the Know – Seymour – New Life United Methodist Church                                     |
| September 20       | Barron County All Veterans Picnic at Pioneer Village in Cameron – starts at 11:00am              |
| September 19       | ALA in the Know – Eau Claire Legion Post 53                                                      |
| September 26       | ALA in the Know – Verona Legion Post 385                                                         |
| January 21-24 2027 | 2027 Midwinter Conference held at Madison Marriott West – Middleton, WI                          |
| February 13, 2027  | 10 <sup>th</sup> District Oratorical Contest held at the Boyd American Legion starting at 1:00pm |

**Deadline for articles and pictures will be November 29, 2026**

**To submit articles and events for the 10<sup>th</sup> District Family Newsletter send to: Teresa Isensee [tisensee2173@gmail.com](mailto:tisensee2173@gmail.com)**



American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin

# 2026 REGISTRATION FORM



CONTINUING  
EDUCATION

**DEADLINE:**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30<sup>th</sup>**  
(Please submit one form per person)

AMERICAN  
**LEGION**  
AUXILIARY

**An ALA In The Know session will be held Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at  
Department Headquarters  
2930 American Legion Drive  
Portage WI 53901**

**8:00 am – 9:00 am** - Registration/Morning Refreshments

**9:00 am – 3:00 pm** - Informative presentation, lunch break, interactive program session, Q&A

**Session is \$25/person** and includes morning refreshments, a light lunch, and program materials. **Please note the session will be cancelled if less than 25 people register by October 30<sup>th</sup>.** No reservations will be accepted on site.

## Attendees will learn:



How to effectively run a meeting



Simplify your reporting efforts



How to deal with unit conflict



Updating your guidelines

*Plus much more!*

Sessions will include information on a variety of topics and Auxiliary programs. New topics will be covered, so come out and join the fun!

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

Please print clearly.

District #:  Unit #:  Unit City:

First Name:  Last Name:

Email:  Phone:

Are you a first-time attendee? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you a newly elected  
(less than 2 years) officer? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Mail check payable to ALA-Wisconsin:

**ALA Wisconsin  
P. O. Box 140  
Portage, WI 53901-0140**

**TOTAL AMOUNT  
ENCLOSED  
(\$25/PERSON):**

*A \$25.00 fee will be charged for any returned checks.*



# American Legion Auxiliary MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

|                                                                                                                      |         |                                                                           |               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Name                                                                                                                 | (First) | (M.I.)                                                                    | (Last)        |
| Address                                                                                                              |         |                                                                           |               |
| City                                                                                                                 |         | State                                                                     | ZIP           |
| Home Phone                                                                                                           |         | Cell Phone                                                                | Email Address |
| / /                                                                                                                  |         | <input type="checkbox"/> Birth to 17 <input type="checkbox"/> 18 and over |               |
| Date of Birth (Required)                                                                                             |         | Unit #                                                                    | Location      |
| Have you been a member previously? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If yes, fill in below.) |         |                                                                           |               |
| Previous Unit City/State                                                                                             |         | ALA ID # (if known)                                                       |               |
|                                                                                                                      |         | / /                                                                       |               |
| Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18)                                                               |         |                                                                           | Date          |

## ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible Through—Name of Veteran (Female Veterans: List Your Own Name)

If Living: American Legion Member ID # (Required) Post # City State

☐ Deceased—If veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records.  
For Veteran's DD214 Discharge Papers: [www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records)

**Veteran Served:**

☐ WWI (4/6/1917-11/11/1918)

Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply):

|                                               |                                          |                                  |                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror | <input type="checkbox"/> Panama          | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam | <input type="checkbox"/> WWII            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War             | <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada | <input type="checkbox"/> Korea   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts |

**Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:**

|                                 |                                                                                |                                  |                                      |                                     |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Sibling | <input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent | <input type="checkbox"/> Grandchild |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child  | <input type="checkbox"/> Self (Female Veteran or Female Current Servicemember) |                                  |                                      |                                     |

### To be Completed by an Officer of The American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary

I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Officer Membership Verification / Date

## HELP US GET YOU CONNECTED!

### I am interested in learning more about:

- ☐ Volunteering for Veterans, Military, and Their Families
- ☐ Youth Activities, Including ALA Girls State, Junior Member Programs, and Scholarships
- ☐ Member Discounts and Services
- ☐ Other

Please contact the following individual about volunteering or joining the American Legion Auxiliary:

|                  |             |            |
|------------------|-------------|------------|
| Name             | Phone       | Email      |
| Name             | Phone       | Email      |
| Name             | Phone       | Email      |
| Recruiter's Name | Unit/Post # | City State |

Submit this application to the ALA unit you wish to join. If unit is unknown, contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 for assistance.  
Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. **Membership pending approval of application.**



**WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION  
ORATORICAL PROGRAM  
CERTIFICATION OF  
POST – COUNTY – DISTRICT – REGIONAL  
WINNER**

**This certification is to be completed and signed by the Post, County or District Commander, or their Oratorical Chairman, or by the State Vice Commander for the Regional Contests. Certification for Post and County contests, along with the judging sheets, are to be mailed to the next level Oratorical Chairman or Commander. Certification and judging sheets for the District contests are to be sent to State Headquarters who, in turn, will forward them for the next contest.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**This is to certify that the following Contestant won the Oratorical Contest for:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Post, County, District)

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**STREET** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY, STATE, ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE NUMBER** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**AGE** \_\_\_\_\_ **GRADE** \_\_\_\_\_ **BIRTHDATE** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**TITLE OF PREPARED ORATION** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL** \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFIED BY** \_\_\_\_\_

(Post, County, District Commander, Department Vice Commander or Department Commander)

**SPONSORING POST NO.** \_\_\_\_\_ **LOCATION** \_\_\_\_\_

Name, Address and Telephone Number of Contestant's Escort: (Legionnaire from Sponsoring Post)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City and Zip

*This information will be used in the event the contestant cannot be reached and contact must be made through the sponsoring Post.*